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£195,000 revamp at church is under way

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Trio hit it big

Expert martial artists at top of their game

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Fighting hard

Saddlers are match for best despite scoreline

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100 more trainees at firms in project

A FURTHER 100 apprentices are to be taken on in Walsall this year as part of a £2 million project to help young people into work. Businesses have pledged to sign up more apprentices as part of the Walsall Works scheme run through the council.

More than 350 people have already started on apprenticeships within the last two years, with another 326 supported into a pre-apprenticeship programme.

The £2 million Walsall Works project aims to help 16 to 24 year-olds get into work, with incentive payments of up to £6,000 for businesses to train each young person, in engineering and manufacturing, construction and health and social care.

Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said: "Reaching the 500th apprentice was a significant milestone for us and I'm now pleased with making a further announcement that we have supported well over 600 young people achieve a positive start to entering the employment ladder."

It comes as the number of 16 to 24 year-olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance has fallen. Between January 2012 and January 2014, it has slumped from 3,515 to 2,260 - the largest reduction rate out of the four Black Country authorities.

Crash woman to face court

A WOMAN has been charged by police after a car overturned along a busy route in Walsall.

The 34-year-old was arrested by officers at the scene after the accident in Lichfield Road, Rushall, Walsall on Sunday night.

She has since been charged with failing to provide a specimen of breath and will appear at Walsall Magistrates Court on March 26.

The woman was treated at the scene by paramedics but did not require hospital treatment.

PUBLIC BACKING FOR STORE PLAN

WIDESPREAD public support for a new giant warehouse scheme, bringing with it up to 60 jobs, may see it get the green light this afternoon.

The JTF premises would sell bulk discount goods, bringing into use a derelict site at the Bescot Retail Park in Walsall. Council officers have recommended the 45,000sq ft plan is approved.

It comes after Walsall Council had previously objected to an Argos and Aldi opening on the park near to the M6.

A report to today's planning committee says it has not been demonstrated why the members retail warehouse could not open in the town centre.

This is where there are locations such as Walsall Waterfront, Crown Wharf, Station Street and the future development of the St Matthews Quarter.

However, councillors are still being recommended to grant approval for the £1.5 million scheme at the retail park off Bescot Crescent.

Derelict

There have been 14 letters of support from residents for the application and no objections have been put forward.

The warehouse is due to take over and transform four long-standing derelict units including the old JJB outlet.

Applicants are hoping JTF, which sells a range of items from clothing, DIY, electrical, home and garden equipment, would open this summer.

There are 12 other JTF sites across the country including Newcastle, Sheffield, Kidderminster and Tamworth. The one in Walsall would be the first in the Black Country.

Report by Craig Hughes

The units primarily sell larger items in multi-pack style packaging and are based on industrial or trading estates.

The firm says there is a need in Walsall and the majority of customers will be businesses or employers close to the retail park.

In his report to councillors, head of planning David Elsworth, says: "Bescot Retail Park is an established out-of-centre location for bulky goods retailing. These are likely to be older premises which are less suitable in market, policy or environmental terms, and which are isolated from other shopping facilities."

"In this location for example it is considered that conversion to industrial and employment uses would be the most appropriate use given the size, scale and nearby employment uses and the proximity to the football stadium and links to the M6."

There were previous plans put forward for Aldi and Argos on the retail park. But a planning inspector was forced to rule on the proposals in 2010 after the council put forward concerns they would have a negative impact on the town centre - with the borough already well-served by such stores.

Nathan on song to deliver success



The singing Postman Nathan Farrell celebrates the release of his second single and looks forward to two new competitions

SINGING postman Nathan Farrell is reaching for the stars after making it to the next round of two popular talent competitions.

By day, the father of two, who has been a postman for a decade, pulls on his uniform to deliver letters around the streets, but by night he steps into the spotlight to perform at venues up and down the country.

Now he dreams of taking a step closer to the big time by competing alongside other aspiring stars on the talent show circuit. He has successfully auditioned for the Search for a Star event in Birmingham and the Essex Factor. Mr Farrell, of Church

Street, Bloxwich, will this Saturday perform in the semi-finals of the Birmingham event that will be held at Austin Sports and Social Club, in Longbridge. His 20-minute act will feature songs by Michael Buble and Dean Martin.

He has also progressed to the boot camp stage of the Essex Factor based in Basildon and hopes to be selected for the finals in May.

If successful it will coincide with the release of his second single called Keep Your Dreams Alive. "Fingers crossed I'll get through to the finals because it will be perfect timing for me. Everybody has big dreams and ambitions in

life. It would be a dream come true for me to get through to these finals."

"I've clocked up 10 years as a delivery worker and it's been quite an adventure," Nathan, aged 28, says.

It has been a rollercoaster two years after he was signed up by London-based artist development agency Downtown Artists. Since then his first single The Closer You Come was released last September on Amazon and iTunes and he has competed in a number of talent competitions.

Mr Farrell lives with his partner Jayne, aged 25, and their children Connor, aged three, and Casey, aged one.

Fans are bailed as game hit by trouble

THREE football fans arrested after trouble flared at Saturday's Black Country derby between Walsall and Wolves have been bailed. Fury erupted at the end of the game when Wolves goalkeeper Carl Ikeme and fellow club keeper Aaron McCarey celebrated in front of the Walsall fans.

It is alleged Ikeme and defender George Elokobi were racially abused during the game which Wolves won 3-0 and the Football Association has confirmed it has launched an investigation into the complaints.

A 22-year-old man from Willenhall and another, aged 21, from Bentley, Walsall, were marched out of the Bank's Stadium in the second half for allegedly obstructing police as they tried to arrest a fan in the Green Stand. It is said they pushed and shoved officers and tried to help the other fan get away.

A 29-year-old fan from Willenhall was arrested for a public order offence relating to shouting abuse at away fans from pitchside despite several warnings from police. The fourth man, a 21-year-old from Cambridge was picked up outside the stadium on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly. He was released with a caution. The other three were bailed without charge pending further inquiries.

Town talent search is on

A TALENT contest will be held later this month.

The third Willenhall's Got Talent event is on March 28 at Gilberts, in Field Street, from 7pm. Organisers are looking for talented youngsters in the Willenhall and Short Heath areas from the ages of 11-19, or up to 25 years for young people with disabilities.

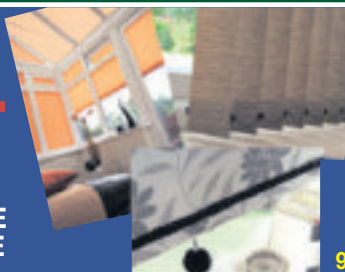
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Care home nurse who slept ousted

A NURSE caught snoozing on duty while caring for vulnerable care home residents has been suspended for four months.

Francis Ogunbodede was discovered snoring during a night shift by a colleague at Elmore House – part of the Parklands Court nursing home in Walsall. The nurse had fallen asleep in the lounge at 1.30am and was only woken at 3.45am by a telephone call, the Nursing and

Midwifery Council heard. He tried to cover his tracks by signing the hourly night checks on residents, it was said. Ogunbodede told the tribunal that he had not slept at all while on duty on July 4, 2012, and said the allegations were a conspiracy.

But the tribunal panel dismissed his conspiracy theory as 'unlikely'. "The panel took account of the fact that your act of sleeping whilst

on duty occurred in the context of a challenging behaviour unit, during a shift for which you were the only registered nurse on duty," said panel chair Stephen Barker. "The healthcare assistant on duty with you was left without your guidance and support."

"This presented a potential risk to the vulnerable residents in your care," Ogunbodede, who was employed by BUPA Care Homes in

May 2011, faced three charges at the central London tribunal.

The panel found allegations that he slept on duty and dishonestly falsified records proved. They also found him guilty of not informing his second employer Alpha Care Homes of the NMC investigation. But they cleared him of acting dishonestly and accepted his account that he believed it unnecessary as the investigation had closed.

Boost for club fight as grants received

AN historic football club which has battled to secure its future after being pulled from the league has received a boost after being included in a round of grants from a housing group.

Darlaston Town FC recently reached its £5,000 fundraising target for it to return to action next season.

But bosses had warned they needed to generate thousands more to keep going for future years.

Now Walsall Housing Group has announced it will get a £3,400 slice of £24,000 funding, with other groups across the borough also set to benefit.

Cash will also go to Caldmere and Palfrey Festival and Willenhall Carnival.

The non-league club folded last year after 140 years, meaning it has missed the 2013/14 season but a committee was set up in September to save it in time for the next season.

The grant will be used to pay for the club's league fees, match officials for the games and go towards the cost of a new kit. Former chairman Neil Chambers, who has led the campaign, said: "This is a huge boost for everyone here."

Parked car catches fire

A BLAZE spread from a caravan being used as an office to a parked car after a portable gas fire was left on.

Firefighters were called to a car lot base in Hollyhedge Lane, Birchills last Wednesday. They said an unattended portable gas fire caused the fire, which spread to a car parked next to the caravan, at 9.45pm.

There was no-one there when the fire started. Firefighter Paul Martin, of Walsall Fire Station, said: "We believe the fire started accidentally after the gas fire was left on." Two engines went to the scene at the rear of St Andrew's Church.

Brass bonus

DARLASTON Town Hall throws open the doors for a lunchtime concert today. Guests at the Victoria Road venue will be the West Midlands Brass Band on at 1.30pm. Entry is £2.50. Organiser Mervin Jones said: "We need folks to come out in force for this event."

DARLASTON Market could be relaunched in a bid to draw more shoppers and traders into the town centre, it has emerged.

The Darlaston Town Centre Partnership is looking to bring stalls back to the town as part of long-term plans to breathe new life into the area. The previous Walsall Council-run market was scrapped in 2011 in a bid to save the cash-strapped local authority up to

Party for launch of single due

TICKETS have gone on sale for the launch party of a charity single in memory of the late Charlattans drummer Jon Brookes.

Hednesford band Marquis Drive are launching the single Heard on this Day later this month with 240 tickets available.

They are raising money for the Jon Brookes Fund which is part of the Brain Tumour Charity.

The launch will take place at Woody's Music Bar in Hednesford on March 22.

The band used to be managed by Jon and practised at his Norton Canes studio.

The band's song was played for the first time earlier this month when it aired on Minister FM with Shed Seven frontman Rick Witter. Mr Witter compared it to the music of Primal Scream.

It has also been played on Xfm. It will be released on iTunes on the same day as the launch party on March 22. Mr Brookes died last August, aged 44, after battling a brain tumour.

He was a lifelong Albion fan originally from Wednesbury. He was in the Charlattans since they formed.

The 40-year-old market had been held in King Street and High Street every Friday and Saturday, until it fell victim to the axe as part of cuts.

There are currently no firm plans in place, but the group driving regeneration of the area have said it is a main aim to get stalls to return.

Stuart Chapman, chairman of Darlaston Town Centre Partnership, said: "One of our main aspirations is to bring a market back to the town breathing new life into the town centre to benefit both existing traders and customers whilst making it an attractive proposition for new people to invest in."

Darlaston councillor Paul Bott said: "I would welcome the market back 100 per cent, it should never have gone anyway."

"It was a focal point for the town. It is probably going to have to be private, but whether it is public or private it is creating jobs and giving people choice."

It comes as Darlaston has received a jobs boost with more positions having been created over the last year, according to latest figures. Jobs have risen from 708 to 916 – an increase of 136.

Among those who have set up business in the town are Scorpions Gym while Price Wise has doubled the size of its retail unit, significantly reducing the number of empty units.

Double trouble for Fagin



Fagin, Josh Holdcroft, with the Olivers, left, Mathew Hindley and right, Joshua Parkes

STUDENTS from Coppice Performing Arts School in Essington, have been practising picking pockets for their latest production.

Fagin, played by Josh Holdcroft has been dealt double trouble in this production as he has not one but two Olivers to contend with. Director Steve Clifton said: "The standard was so high at auditions that I had to make the decision to twin up students to several of the lead characters including Oliver, Dodger, Nancy and Widow Corney."

The cast of 60 are delighted to have in attendance the Mayor of Wolverhampton and the Chief Executive of The Wolverhampton Grand, Peter Cutchie. Ticket sales are going very well and heading rapidly towards a sell-out audience. Performances take place from March 19-22 at 7.30pm, and there is a Saturday matinee, at 3.30pm.

Tickets are available from the school reception priced at £8.00 Adults, £4.00 Concessions, £20.00 Family Ticket.

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NEWS

NEWS
in brief

Club scheme for pitch and lights

A FOOTBALL club has lodged plans to create a new pitch and floodlights at its grounds.

A planning application for a new artificial turf pitch with fencing and a netting roof enclosure at Sporting Khalsa FC has been submitted to Walsall Council.

The proposals for the club's Aspray Arena, in Noose Lane, Willenhall, also involve installing new floodlights. Sporting Khalsa FC has been based at Aspray Arena since May 2010.

Hospice boosted by £4k donation

RESIDENTS at a housing organisation have gathered in more than £4,000 for a hospice over the past two years. Residents from the community-run Sandbank Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) in Bloxwich have just handed over £1,000 to St Giles Hospice in Walsall, which they raised through fundraising events in 2013.

The latest donation brings their fundraising total for the hospice to £4,070 which tenants have donated over the last two years.

Club's gearing up for different rides

A SERIES of bike rides have been organised by a cycling club this weekend.

CTC Walsall has organised a 14-mile family bike ride on Saturday leaving Chasewater Country Park at 9.30am. On Sunday, there will be another family bike ride at Walsall Arboretum from 10am.

There is a 50-mile ride leaving from Anchor Road, Aldridge, at 9.30am.

High note for choir students

YOUNGSTERS impressed a panel of judges and won a choir competition at Walsall's Forest Arts Centre.

More than two dozen youngsters from Meadow View JMI School in Great Barr entered the lower key stage two choir competition. They sang Katrina and the Waves' Walking on Sunshine and Lean On Me by Bill Withers.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale will be held at Bentley Leisure Pavilion in Bentley Road North, Walsall, on March 23 from 10am to 2pm. Tables are £6 each. To book for more information, call 01922 474684.

Eyesore toy shop scheme approved

A FORMER toy shop in Willenhall town centre that fell into disrepair more than a decade ago - leading to the owners being prosecuted and fined - is poised to be transformed into a shop and flats after plans were given the nod.

Proposals to rebuild and renovate the former Dainty's toy shop, in Stafford Street, into a shop, three flats and two bedsits have been passed by Walsall Council planning chiefs.

It comes after the council issued a notice to owners Raj and Geeta Gupta requiring them to carry out a schedule of works at the long-standing eyesore property, but they were left with a bill of more than £1,200 after attending Walsall Magistrates Court last year for failing to comply.

It is thought the new shop will create up to four jobs.

Willenhall North Councillor Ian Shires has called it a 'positive' move forward. He said: "It's a crying shame to see it in the state it's in. If you come in from the top end, it's the first thing you see." The owners of the building, who submitted the application, pleaded guilty last year to failing to carry out necessary works by December 2012 as requested.

Students are Berliners

A GROUP of creative media production students from Walsall College toured Berlin to explore its cultural past on a field trip.

They had a taste of its modern day history from visiting Brandenburg Gate, the Jewish memorial, and the Berlin Wall that divided east and west Berlin until it was demolished in 1990.

They also visited Museum Island, the 368 metre-high Fernsehturm TV Tower offering panoramic views of the city and Berlin's Film Museum. Lecturer Lyndon Bayliss, said: "It is clear that students benefit so much from these experiences."

Seats scheme

PLANS have been lodged to create an external seating area at a pub. The seating area, with six tables and 12 chairs, would be created outside the main entrance of The Imperial, in Darwall Street, Walsall town centre. JD Wetherspoon has submitted the plans.

Exports from region hit a record high



Paul Noon of UKTI

EXPORTS from the West Midlands hit a record high at the end of last year, new figures show, underlining belief recovery is now well under way in the region.

In the last three months of 2013 the value of exports from the region hit a high of £7.5 billion - up by £887 million.

At the same time, new figures from HM Revenue & Customs show, the West Midlands saw the highest increase in exports in 2013 of any region in the UK.

The region's export figures in 2013 totalled £26.9 billion, up £4.2 billion or 18.4 per cent on the year before.

Paul Noon, regional director for the

Government's export agency UK Trade & Investment, said: "These are, once again, smashing figures for exports from the West Midlands."

"They cap-off a bumper year in 2013 for exports, demonstrating sustained growth from companies across the region. Exporting is in the DNA of companies in this region and is the heartbeat of the economic recovery."

"West Midlands companies are continuing to lead the way in terms of breaking into new markets across the globe. We are well on our way to meeting the national economic challenge of doubling the value

of exports by 2020." He added: "The EU remains the largest single market for West Midlands goods with sales over the last 12 months, worth more than £11 billion, followed by the Asia Pacific region, at just over £6.3 billion."

The figures are released as UKTI prepares for Export Week early next month - a series of events around the region aimed at giving companies a hand to boost their overseas sales."

Mr Noon said: "Export Week in April is about showing firms who've not exported before how they too can access new markets overseas."

Call for action on road in wake of girl's death

RESIDENTS of a street where a schoolgirl died when the car she was travelling in was involved in a crash with a coach collected more than 1,500 signatures in two days to demand road safety measures.

Natasha Whale, aged 13, was pronounced dead at the scene after her mother's car and an Adams Tours coach carrying schoolchildren crashed.

Immigrant made £14k after fake IDs fraud

AN IMMIGRANT stole the identities of four other people in a 'sophisticated' benefits con that netted over £14,000 in two years, a judge heard.

Malawi-born care worker Joyce Kawoza claimed maternity allowance in their names using fake documents, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 35-year-old trickster discovered details of the people through friends. Payouts went into either her bank account or that of her partner Fostino Nzombo who both lived in West Bromwich Street, Walsall.

Kawoza launched the scam within months of arriving in this country on a student visa in March 2011.

She admitted conspiracy to defraud between while Nzombo pleaded guilty to being concerned in arrangements regarding criminal property by allowing maternity allowance to be paid into his account. Kawoza was jailed for 14 months and will be deported. Nzombo was told to carry out 80 hours unpaid work.

The incident occurred at the junction on Valley Road and Ryle Street in Blakenall, Walsall on February 24. In the aftermath of the tragedy families in the area complained that their previous calls for action to install road safety measures at junctions across the Blakenall Heath estate had been ignored.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said campaigners should not to pre-empt the ongoing police investigation to find the cause of the crash.

Bloxwich East councillors Kath Phillips and Julie Fitzpatrick mobilised residents, schools and businesses to collect the names within 48 hours following an outcry.

The names have been handed in to council chiefs.

"The feeling in the area is that something needs to be done to improve road safety. We went out with a group of about 20 residents over the space of two days to distribute the petition and collect the signatures."

"They wore high visibility jackets and were able to attract a lot of support from passing motorists." Natasha, a Walsall Academy pupil, had been a rear seat passenger when the car driven by her mother Shelley and school coach collided.

Mrs Whale, aged 45, remains in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

£195k work on church under way



Rev Colin Such with some of the completed work atop Rushall Parish Church where a fundraising event is due

WORK is under way on the refurbishment of an historic church which is holding a spring fair fundraiser this weekend.

Improvements to the stonework of Rushall Parish Church has started as part of a £195,000 project.

A series of fundraising events and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund have helped raise over £150,000 for the overall scheme.

It has meant replacing some of the sandstone and repairing the stained glass windows has been able to start

at the east end of the church in Leigh Road. It is expected to be completed around May. Around £38,000 still needs to be found for the next stage, which will see the preservation of the building's unique Pre-Raphaelite wall paintings begin next January.

The annual spring fair which will help boost the fundraising appeal takes place in the church hall on Saturday. Admission is free and there will be more than a dozen stalls selling a range of bric-a-brac, books, handicrafts, clothes, cakes and plants.

There will also be a tombola and raffle at the event from 11am to 1pm.

The building dates back to 1856, although there has been a church in place since 1220. Church spokesman Bob Barnard said: "The aim is we make that end of the church totally secure so no water can get in so we can then do the conservation of the wall paintings. A new heating system to stop paintings getting damaged was installed more than four years ago, while £27,000 has been spent on fixing the bells."

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IMAGINE, a few years from now, a Spanish-speaking Texas decides to quit the United States and become a member of the European Union. In the north of Texas, an English-speaking enclave of loyal US citizens pleads for help from Washington. What would the US president do? Exactly what Vladimir Putin has done in Crimea.

UKIP is asking would-be candidates to sign a declaration that: "I do not have any skeletons in my cupboard." Which pretty much excludes all of humanity.

SCIENTISTS in Denmark say the ecology of European forests could be greatly improved by reintroducing rhinos, elephants and bison. Tell you what. Before "re-wilding" with the real things, why not follow the example of the new town of Milton Keynes when it first introduced its inner-city overspill residents to dangerous-looking beasts such as cows? After MK's concrete friars, bring on the concrete rhinos.

IN ITS own little way, the Ash Wednesday edition of Thought for the Day (Radio 4) was as significant as Moses bringing down the tablets or Martin Luther falling out with the Vatican. It featured a prominent Anglican priest announcing there is no life after death. You pop your clogs and that's it, folks. You might imagine in the Lenten build-up to Easter that Canon Angela Tilby would offer a few words about the empty tomb, the risen Lord, the life everlasting and all that stuff. Nope. Her message was that we come from dust and go to dust, that death is "the loss of everything" and "we are all afraid of death and its finality." I wonder how many Christians were listening to their radios and whispering: "Yes, but..." waiting for something a wee bit more positive and, dare I say it, religious from the canon. Instead, they got a three-minute lecture that Richard Dawkins would have been proud to deliver. If this is what passes for religion these days, it doesn't leave much room for us atheists, does it?

THIS week's report that angry people are more likely to have heart attacks and strokes is another example of experts rediscovering the bleeding obvious. The Victorians knew all about apoplexy. I had a great-uncle who died of it while swearing at the snow for daring to fall on his new car. Those of us blessed with high blood pressure know all about keeping cool. It's just that reports like this make us so infernally, diabolically, incandescently angry. Now, now, calm....

"OBESITY is lack of knowledge," declares one emailer in an online debate about grossly obese children being taken into care. Actually, obesity is too many pies, chips and fizzy drinks. There is not an obese adult in this country who does not know perfectly well what causes fatness.

WHEN you hear the name Steve McQueen do you think of a) the director of the Oscar-winning movie 12 Years a Slave or b) Frank Bullitt, the coolest detective ever to scream through the streets of San Francisco in a Ford Mustang? It's a generation thing.

IN Mind the Gap (BBC2) Evan Davis explains why London is steadily growing apart from the rest of Britain. The commonest response to images of stressed-out Londoners swarming sweatily in the Tube or cycling to their deaths in clouds of carbon monoxide is to demand some of that wonderful growth for the rest of the nation. London works only because of one vast metropolis-wide delusion, namely that Londoners are the cleverest, richest, most fashionable and most talented people in the land. Frankly, I'd rather live where the traffic is calmer, the air purer, the growth less frightening.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bogus petition bid over housing

PARENTS have been 'hoodwinked' into signing their names to a bogus petition over a controversial housing project, it has been claimed.

A man purporting to be collecting signatures to secure extra car parking at a school in Staffordshire was actually getting names for a petition calling for more housing to be built in the area, it emerged.

His true purpose for being there was identified by one parent who

spotted on the petition that it said it was about extra housing and had nothing to do with parking.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has called the move fraudulent and 'an absolute disgrace.' Police are investigating the incident outside Cheslyn Hay Sports and Community High School last Tuesday.

Several angry parents contacted the MP about their concerns after

realising they had been fooled. Mr Williamson, who led a high-profile campaign opposing a bid to build 140 new homes in Cheslyn Hay, is now urging people to be extra vigilant and to carefully read through any petitions they are asked to sign.

Friction between supporters and opponents of the housing scheme has been brewing since a planning application to build 141 homes at a green belt site off Landywood Lane

was submitted to South Staffordshire District Council.

The plan was thrown out late last year but there is still a chance that the Planning Inspectorate could overturn the decision. The department is currently considering an appeal by the builder. A total of 4,281 residents signed a petition to stop the development. The signatures were compiled by Mr Williamson.

Plans sent in for new gym at primary school

A NEW gym and dance studio could be built at a Walsall primary school, offering space for indoor physical activities, theatre, arts and group studies.

Manor Primary School in Streetly has been at the Briar Avenue site since the 1950s and has been extended a number of times, the last major improvements being more than seven years ago.

Then the pre-school department, classrooms, toilets and reception area was constructed. However, a new library was built in 2012.

The new proposals represent the latest plans for expansion at the school in Briar Avenue.

According to the plans, the year six block, which was built in 2003, would be extended to create a gym and dance studio which could have a variety of uses to enhance the current facilities at the school.

The plans state it would add to the school's progress over recent years.

A report, submitted with the planning application to Walsall Council, reads: "The proposal is to improve current facilities which have been added on over the past few years as the school has expanded."

"The new dance studio will be a welcome addition to the school allowing for students to have a space for indoor physical activities, theatre, arts and group

by Simon Stone

studies in a new purpose built modern environment which is important for the improvement and progress of the pupils as they progress through the school to senior education.

"This facility is being funded by the School/Parents/Teachers Governing Body who are committed to providing a high level of education which will ultimately benefit the children at the school."

A decision on the plans are due to be made by planning chiefs over the coming months. It comes after Walsall Council's cabinet backed plans earlier this month to invest more than £2 million to carry out repairs at primary schools across the borough.

Up to 14 schools are poised to benefit from the major investment.

The money will come from the capital maintenance budget, with schools being asked to contribute a further £165,000.

Golf day raises £5,000

GOLFERS held a charity event and raised £5,000 for a hospice. Members of Talacre Beach Golf Society, in Wales, raised the funds for St Giles Walsall Hospice in Walsall by holding a charity golf day.

The fundraiser was organised by 2013 club captain Paul Riley and his wife Linda, who live in Bloxwich and have a holiday home in Talacre, north Wales.

The pair decided to hold the charity event in memory of Mrs Riley's old school friend Elaine Fletcher, who was the hospice's first patient when it opened in April 2011. She said: "It's a wonderful place and the staff are so lovely."

Climbing challenge boost



Elliot Millward, aged 18, front, and 19-year-old Alan Jeeves during their treadmill session

A STUDENT has completed a gruelling 11-hour treadmill challenge to raise cash for a meningitis charity. Elliot Millward, aged 18, is aiming towards a fundraising climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in September.

And to help bring in the cash he and friend Alan Jeeves took part in an 11-hour treadmill run at the Decathlon store in Wednesbury. And in only the first couple of hours of their challenge donations had

already started pouring in with more than £50 raised.

Elliot, who is studying sport at the University of Birmingham, said all of the money raised from his trip to Africa would be donated to Meningitis Research. "I need to raise a minimum of £2,850 sponsorship for the mountain climb." People who would like to contribute can log on to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/money4meningitis>

Alert on e-ciggies in wake of blasts

THEY are seen as an alternative to tobacco but West Midlands Fire Service is warning people about exploding e-cigarettes. It comes after a second such explosion in the region in as many months.

On both occasions firefighters say the lithium ion batteries blew apart because they were connected to chargers not provided by the e-cigarette manufacturer.

In the first incident, in a Birmingham office, the device had been left on a desk to charge via a computer USB port. The owner was away from his desk when the battery sprayed its hot contents towards where he had been sitting only a few minutes earlier.

A similar e-cigarette battery has since exploded when it was left to charge in a house in Solihull. The resulting fire and smoke damaged much of the room and its contents. Three people had to flee the property.

West Midlands Fire Service area commander Steve Vincent said: "People should always buy electrical items from a reputable and reliable source, and re-power devices using a charger supplied or recommended by the manufacturer."

New Screwfix store opens

HARDWARE and do-it-yourself retailer Screwfix has created 12 jobs with the opening of a new store. The new branch has opened for business in Walsall Wood to serve tradesmen and DIY fans.

James Bodley manager at the new premises in Walsall Road said: "This is our first store in Walsall Wood and we are proud to have created 12 jobs locally."

"At Screwfix we pride ourselves on the speed, reliability and convenience of our service and are looking forward to welcoming the tradesmen of Walsall Wood."

Country tracks

RESIDENTS are being urged to make tracks for a 10-mile walk. The Walsall Group of the Ramblers is heading to Barton under Needwood near Lichfield on Sunday. Non members are always welcome and should contact the walk leaders on 01922 456932 or 614592.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefGreen for go to
mark Irish's day

FANS of all things Irish will be up for the craic during a St Patrick's celebration at Bar Sport and the Premier Suite in Cannock.

On Saturday there is a dinner dance which includes live band The Craicers, Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums Band. Tickets for the meal and show are £19.95 or £10 for entrance only.

On the Sunday will be a St Patrick's Day Sunday Lunch and finishes off on the Monday with the Irish Aces band. For details and to book, call 01543 572092.

Murray's safe
hands for draw

FORMER Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray mingled with pub goers and helped draw competition names out of a hat.

Matt was invited along to the Royal George in Willenhall. While he was there he was asked to pick out the names of married couple and Royal George regulars Stan and Rose Davis, who were included in a loyalty scheme contest.

The couple won an all inclusive holiday to Costa Brava. The pub on New Road is currently undergoing a £140,000 revamp.

Car crashes into
side of a house

A CAR ploughed into the lounge of a house while a woman and her toddler slept.

The Vauxhall Astra became embedded in the side of the property, which has been converted into flats, in Wayside Walk, Walsall at about 1.20am.

The driver of the car, a man in his late 30s, was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Broadband call
to businesses

BUSINESSES are being urged to raise their views on plans to install high speed broadband across the Black Country.

Bosses want 95 per cent of the Black Country to have high speed broadband by 2017.

To take part in the consultation visit www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/place/broadband-plan

Groups' showcase

BUSINESSES, societies and community groups will be setting up stalls at an event at Portobello Methodist Church, in Willenhall on March 22. It will be held between 10am and 2pm. Admission is free.

Training
numbers
are on the
increase

GROWING numbers of young people are being offered education, training and employment in Walsall.

Figures have been produced by the Department for Education and show that Walsall made offers to more people than the national average.

Each year authorities are required to offer 16 and 17 year olds training or employment opportunity.

Staff at Integrated Young People's Support Services-Prospects work on behalf of Walsall Children's Services to reach out to all of the borough's young people.

Information is recorded on the numbers of young people who've received an offer.

Walsall hit 97.7 per cent of offers made which is higher than the national average of 92.3 per cent.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, children's services chief, said: "This is fantastic news for Walsall's young people. It is essential that every young person has the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications that help them progress to their chosen path."

For details call Connections on 01922 636333 or visit the www.connections-walsall.co.uk website.

Wine binge
led to death

A CHEF was found dead at her home after drinking three bottles of white wine, an inquest heard.

Danielle Howells was left alone at her home in Murdoch Court, Willenhall, after her partner went out for the night, Walsall Coroner's Court heard. But when partner, Terry Wooton, returned he found the 33-year-old dead on the settee.

He told the inquest that Ms Howells, who was head chef at a residential home, had drunk three bottles of wine. Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded that she died as a result of an accident.

Talks on trees

A FRIENDS group meets today to discuss issues around fields which have been targeted by yobs. The Friends Around the Lea is at Goscote Greenacres, Goscote Lane, Walsall, from 6pm. The vandal attacks on newly planted trees will be on the agenda.

HS2 route should be altered, says group



An artist's impression of an HS2 train

THE route of HS2 should be changed and go through Cannock and Walsall, according to proposals revealed by campaigners in rural Staffordshire.

A working group in Lichfield set up by MP Michael Fabricant has suggested alternative routes for the high-speed line which would see the track diverted away from the cathedral city.

One would see the high speed link following the path of the M6 and M42 near Birmingham Airport before skirting the A5 and M6 Toll to Cannock.

It would then continue alongside the M6 to the west of Stafford.

A second proposal is running the line out of Birmingham alongside the A38 and M6 where it would veer off near junction seven passing to the east of Walsall up to the Churchbridge interchange south of Cannock and then follow the route of the M6 to Manchester.

Currently the line would pass through swathes of rural Staffordshire around Lichfield and cutting through the Ridware villages, Colton, Great Haywood. It would also see HS2 join up with the West Coast Mainline near Rugeley.

The campaigners argue that the Government's preferred £42.6 billion route will

do more environmental damage than their proposals. They say their alternatives make use of brownfield and ex-mining sites.

Mr Fabricant has also backed changes to lower the height of HS2 and the introduction of tunnelling in his constituency if the route remains unchanged.

He said: "This major change to the route of HS2 as it approaches Birmingham from the south and exiting from the north of Birmingham towards Manchester has been proposed by my HS2 Phase 2 Working Group which I call the 'Macro Route' and which I prefer, though I recognise that HS2 Limited is less likely to adopt it."

Parking restrictions bid
to help centre shoppers

PARKING restrictions could be introduced to stop motorists clogging up spaces for shoppers in Willenhall.

A two hour limit is being planned for bays at the front of The Square shopping centre in New Invention so they are maintained for customers. A long-stay car park was created at the rear of the shopping centre last summer and is used as a park-and-ride

for bus commuters.

However, some cars have been left in the shoppers' spaces, off Lichfield Road and which are closer to the shops, all day.

The plans would affect 18 bays at the front of the centre, five of which are for disabled drivers.

The order which has been put forward by Walsall Council would also see double yellow lines added to stop vehicles being left on the pavement or double parking.

The two hour restriction would operate Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6.30pm and apply for the existing parking bays at the front of the centre.

A loading bay for the Co-op store will also be better regulated.

The proposals have gone out for consultation and people have until tomorrow, Friday, to comment.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires is backing the proposals. He said: "The front is supposed to be like a shoppers car park. People have been parking on there all day."

"Shoppers were being pushed round the back. We are trying to segregate shoppers car parking from long stay parking."

Concerns have been raised over pedestrian safety and congestion at the site because cars have been blocking part of the footpath next to the shopping centre.

Youngsters are top of the chops



Tommy Simkin aged nine with his sister Charli, 14 and George Tolley, 13 celebrate their karate success

YOUNG martial artists have struck gold at a world-class competition in America.

After a gruelling seven-week training camp, Charli Simkin, aged 14, George Tolley, 13 and Tommy Simkin, nine, all competed in the Kids Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Pan American Championships.

The competition was held at California State University, Domingez

Hills, California. Tommy won gold in the grey belt, lightweight category, while his sister Charli also brought home gold in the yellow belt contest.

Losing

She won her first fight by 20 seconds, and then won by 11 points in the final.

George fought in the yellow belt feather category, winning his first

fight but losing to the eventual competition winner by just two points.

Instructor Neil Simkin, at the Simkin Martial Arts Academy in Walsall, said: "It's great for the academy to have another two world champions and a world number three."

"The kids deserve all the success, they all worked so hard and really took their skills to another level for this competition."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done."

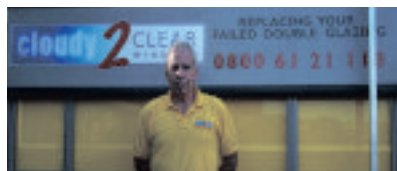
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

LIKE all the great thinkers of our time, 20-year-old Gemma Worrall decided to share her thoughts on the delicate situation in the Ukraine on Twitter.

Of course she did. Does anybody ever have any thoughts on anything these days, without announcing them on Twitter?

But the Blackpool lass's musings on the stand-off between the West and Russia over the future of Crimea really are worth savouring.

"If barraco banner is our president, why is he getting involved with Russia, scary," she wrote.

And that certainly is scary. Not only can she not spell Barack Obama's name, she appears to think Blackpool is part of the United States. And next year she will be allowed to vote at the General Election.

Incidentally, although admitting politics is not her strong point, she claims to have 17 GCSE O-levels. Seventeen. However did she manage that? It is tempting to quip that arithmetic is probably not her strong point either, but the sad thing is that she probably does have the qualifications she says. Still, good to 'no' the exam system hasn't been dumbed down.

THIS week Britain marked national No-Smoking Day, with events held all around the West Midlands.

Meanwhile, the campaign group Tobacco Free Futures warned (before hastily re-editing) that it was 'fighting back against an industry which kills 2 in 1'.

Now that is a deadly industry. Presumably arithmetic is not their strong point either?

ANOTHER example of the stupidity rife on our social media network is the furore surrounding Emily Slough, a young mother who had been pictured breastfeeding her daughter in Rugeley town centre.

The photograph was then posted on Facebook by some sad case who branded her a tramp. I can't help but think that if the sight offended me so much, I would be wanting to get it out of my mind, not posting it on the internet so thousands of other people could see it.

And then finally, we have the reaction of Mrs Slough herself, who has responded by organising a mass breast-feeding session in Rugeley town centre on Saturday.

Please ladies, enough. I know breastfeeding is natural, but so is taking a leak. It is generally accepted that it is bad manners to do that in the street.

And while the Facebook comments were nasty, vitriolic and spiteful, it is really right for a bunch of militant breast-feeders to use their children as props in a tasteless publicity stunt?

Both sides need to take a deep breath and calm down. There are more important issues to get worked up over.



The new Jaguar Land Rover engine factory



Tata Steel is investing heavily in its Wednesfield site



The £11m investment in the new Tipton Leisure Centre

Skills gap key to better business

SIMON PENFOLD outlines the good, the bad and the ugly of the Black Country's economic situation

WE are building more homes in the Black Country, our children are doing better at school and more people are in work than there were a year ago.

There has been a 3,000 hike in the workforce across Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell.

However, the nitty-gritty of this is that 9,000 new jobs created in the private sector were partly wiped out by the loss of 6,000 public sector jobs as Government spending cuts bit deep across local authorities and state-funded bodies.

At the same time, people in the Black Country are much less physically active than the UK average. And figures for infant death, diabetes and childhood obesity are significantly worse than for the UK as a whole.

The facts and figures are all revealed in a newly published Economic Review, a look at the Black Country and the state we are in. It has been compiled by the economic intelligence unit of the Black Country Consortium, the organisation set up between local business leaders and local authorities more than a decade ago to co-ordinate their efforts to regenerate the area.

To keep track of progress – or the lack of it – the Consortium compiles huge amounts of data every year.

One of the key numbers it produces is something called the 'output gap'. It effectively compares how well the Black Country is performing as a local economy, and how well it should be performing compared to the rest of the UK.

The bad news is that an overall assessment shows the Black Country's economy is around £7.8 billion short of where it needs to be. The worse news is that figure has been getting bigger.



Dudley Castle is still key to attracting visitors to the area

Since 2004 it has gone up by around £3 billion, and last year it rose another £200 million.

This is partly because we have too few people in jobs, and partly because our people don't have good enough skills. But the biggest problem is that the Black Country economy lacks dynamism – it underperforms in terms of competition, investment, innovation and enterprise. We simply don't create enough businesses.

In the UK as a whole, for every 10,000 people around 42 businesses are created every year. In the Black Country that

falls to just 30. Across the area that means 1,453 businesses that should be started, aren't.

And the area loses out in terms of wages, spending, taxes and all the other benefits healthy businesses bring to an area to the tune of £5.4 billion. But the businesses we do have are often doing very well indeed.

Around 90,000 people in the Black Country have jobs in what is now called the High Value Manufacturing sector. That is firms making parts for cars, planes, oil rigs, pipelines and anything else that requires engineering know-

how and precision. The result is that the Black Country has become the heart of the UK's engineering components industry. Parts made in Dudley, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Walsall or Wolverhampton are now going into virtually every car and aircraft now being produced in the UK.

Companies like Jaguar Land Rover, with its new engine plant on the i54, and Tata Steel, with its major investment at the Wednesfield Steelpark, see the Black Country as an area with a manufacturing future. But that has brought its own set of problems – the biggest of which is the region's skills gap, says Stewart Towe, chairman of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Mr Towe said the skills issue was 'absolutely critical' and is appealing to more young people – and their parents – to consider careers in engineering and manufacturing. Mr Towe, who is also head of Smethwick manufacturing group Hadley, said: "One of our biggest problems is that we have too many 'lifestyle businesses'."

Earnings

A lack of skills is a big factor in another area where the Black Country is still losing out: wages. The average earnings for a Black Country person in full time work last year was £23,256. That is up £216 on the previous year but still £3,761 short of the national average.

Unemployment remains high, at 11.2 per cent compared to eight per cent nationally. To get us up to the national average would mean more than 16,000 people finding a job.

Transport is another big issue, and the last year has seen work under way on the £36 million M54 junction 2 scheme, improving access to the i54 business site, as well as the £25m A41 West Bromwich Underpass.

The Economic Review shows that the Black Country is making progress in areas such as education and training, building new homes and – gradually – increasing jobs. But it also underlines that this area has a long way to go.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

A NAKED duel on a nippy December afternoon landed two men with £50 fines. Lichfield magistrates fined the men for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace following the bizarre stunt, which took place in broad daylight in front of men, women and children.

FORMER Mayor of Wolverhampton, Ted Lane, thought to be Britain's longest serving councillor, was facing expulsion from the Labour Party after 67 years. Councillor Lane had announced he would stand as an independent Labour candidate after being deselected by his ward party.

THE leaders of 13,000 Staffordshire miners urged their men to join strike action which had paralysed half of the country's pits. The Midlands National Union of Mineworkers said a ballot would take place.

1994

A LOCAL authority defended its decision to threaten a man with court action over £1 owing on his council tax. Clive Hayward, of Willenhall, was sent a demand after paying his £431 bill in 10 instalments of £43. "I thought they would have added £1 to one of the instalments," he said. "The council has been ridiculously heavy-handed."

FRANK Sinatra was reported to be in good shape and anxious to return to the stage days after collapsing during a concert in Virginia.

POLICE removed the distinctive sign outside the Gloucester 'House of Horrors' after a ninth body was found buried at the site. Its owner, Gloucester builder Fred West, appeared before magistrates in the city charged with five more murders, in addition to the three charges he was already facing.

2004

TWO young women were rescued after their car plunged 18ft into the River Severn near Ironbridge, forcing them to clamber onto the roof as the vehicle sank into freezing waters. It was believed the driver had served to avoid a badger.

THOUSANDS queued outside Birmingham's University of Central England to audition for the Big Brother house. One hopeful got a friend to film him running through a supermarket in swimming trunks while another dressed in a chicken outfit.

A YOUNG man in the congregation of a Wolverhampton church was forced to empty his pockets by fellow churchgoers after being caught stealing from the collection plate. He fled empty handed.

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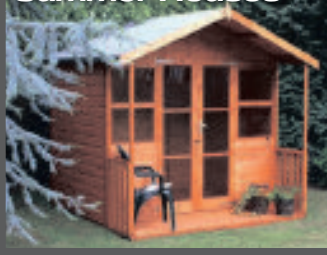
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BUILDINGS

Scrap the hospital shopping mall

I COULDN'T agree more with David Winnick's comments recently expressed in your fine publication in relation to funding or building three more wards in the Manor hospital.

For an already stretched and overused service it was, I believe poor sightedness on the designers to plan such a hospital without wards! All that £150m and apart from some state of the art rooms for consulting in during outpatient appointments, there is little to show for such cost.

Yes, there's a Costa Coffee and some shops there, which are probably tied in for

many years due to lease agreements, but why no beds?

This is a major reason why such bed crises exists on a daily basis and see patients routinely cancelled for surgery on a regular occurrence, as a matter of course. Don't get me wrong, I like a vanilla latte just as much as the next person, but surely the shopping mall could have been scrapped and utilised for patients spaces to consult with them. Instead of which we as a town are now stuck with an inadequately designed hospital which in large part is not fit for purpose.

S STROUD, Wednesbury

Us smokers are group's scapegoats

ANTI-SMOKING campaigner A Peace, once again, confuses fact with fiction in his epistle.

In his third paragraph he claims that tobacco products 'will have standard packaging' whereas, by paragraph six, he recognises that this is his assumption, and subject to an independent review before any legislation is even contemplated!

It is an established fact there are more than 100 different causes of cancer. Why then, does Cancer Research UK exclusively target smokers for persecution?

The charity has manifestly failed to develop a cure for this disease, so it seeks to divert attention from themselves and scapegoat those who fall victim to this incurable condition.

The names of all local MPs who voted in favour of this intrusion into individual liberty are now known. I shall be voting against the named individual in my area. I urge all smokers to do likewise.

**A V HARRISON
Great Wyrley, Walsall**

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Walsall
@expressandstar.co.uk

Fairy tale claims should be trashed

RECENTLY I had two friends, telling me, so full of excitement, that they were going to receive vast sums of money. All they had to do was send £20-£30 as a handling fee.

Or another way was by purchasing at an extortionate price, some useless cheap product, like vitamin tablets, even pots of jam, to be the winner of a large cash prize or magnificent holiday, as they are in the top draw of a few possible winners.

Calming them down with great difficulty, I had to say to them that it was a scam - someone is simply trying to extract money out of them.

There is no chance whatever of them winning money

from something they have never previously been involved with - something for nothing does not happen.

I have to admit, on the letters they received, the wording is brilliant, their use of language to sell such fairy stories is so convincing.

The letters read by many elderly people says, at last their ship has come in, they are going to be rich beyond their wildest dreams. But that is all it is, dreams, for gullible folk to pay out real cash from their pension money.

The only good thing is to chuck those letters in the recycle bin.

**RAY HAMMOND,
Alexandra Way,
Aldridge**

LETTERS

Allowance cash farce

BACK in November last year I received my winter fuel allowance of £200, paid direct into my bank account. Instead of using it to buy Christmas presents for the family, because my bank balance was £200 to the good, I decided to pay a cheque for that amount to my energy supplier.

Guess what! No postal address on my bill to make a payment by cheque. It is all done by telephone and online. I cannot afford the internet and phoning is expensive, so I sent my cheque for £200 to the only address I could find on my bill, the complaints address, expressing my wish to reduce my monthly direct debits.

Guess what! They cannot do it. Three months later, and still no further forward. What is wrong with these companies?

A PARKER, Willenhall

Coin calamity at bus stop

I ENJOYED reading the Express & Star's double page spread about how nice people are, but as usual there are two sides to a coin.

My 13 year old granddaughter and her two friends went to Sutton Coldfield to look round the shops.

After an enjoyable time they went to catch the No.5 bus to go home. While waiting at the bus stop she dropped a £2 coin. Just as she was bending down to pick it up an elderly man beat her to it and said to her "I picked it up so you are not getting it back", leaving the three girls gobsmacked.

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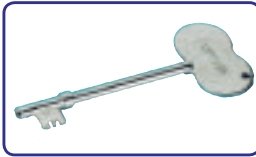
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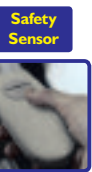
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NEWS

£90,000 boost to pay for liver scan gear

POTENTIAL liver disease can now be spotted and treated earlier at Walsall Healthcare NHS trust thanks to a cash injection of £90,000.

The donation, from the League of Friends, has enabled the trust to purchase the revolutionary Fibrosan machine.

The machine uses a non-invasive technique where a modified ultra-

sound probe is used to create and measure the velocity of a sheer wave as it passes through the liver.

From this an estimation of liver stiffness is made.

The degree of fat deposition in the liver is also calculated. The scanner cost £89,950 and was donated by the trust's charity, the League of Friends. Dr Amanda Hughes, consultant gas-

troenterologist said: "This extremely generous gift will revolutionise the care of patients with liver disease in Walsall."

"It will help stage the degree of disease and therefore requirement and timing of treatment. It will also reduce the need for more invasive tests such as liver biopsy. I cannot thank the League of Friends enough."

A review of traffic flow urged after latest crash

A REVIEW of traffic flow and safety measures are being demanded on a main route where a car collided with a house.

Concerns have been raised about Bentley Lane in Walsall being used as a rat run and motorists speeding up and down. It has been said there have already been a series of accidents and could eventually lead to somebody being seriously injured.

A Vauxhall Astra struck the detached property which has been converted into flats at the junction of Wayside Walk at around 1.20am last Tuesday.

Councillor Lee Jeavons said concerns have been raised about the route through Reedswood previously and is now asking Walsall Council to assess what action can be taken. It includes the island where the crash happened with safety barriers only on one side of the road. The cause of the collision is being investigated by police.

Councillor Jeavons said: "I am well aware of the dangers of this road and have questioned the layout. There have been other accidents and I will be calling for a review. I am asking officers to look again at the traffic flow." "Clearly there has been a number of accidents there, where there haven't been injuries, but it is just a matter of time."

A woman in her 30s and her child were led to safety by firefighters after the smash into the downstairs flat. A 6ft wide hole was left in the wall of the property and it was sealed off. Structural engineers were drafted in to assess the impact.

The driver of the car, a man in his late 30s, was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital with a fractured arm and possible ankle injuries. Bentley Lane was shut at the junction.

Pupils check out classes



Kyle Peakman, aged nine and Paris Leigh, seven, play chess at the after school club

SCHOOLCHILDREN are getting the chance to learn how to play chess in new classes.

The Chess in Schools and Communities is a UK-wide initiative and has now been launched in Walsall.

An after-school class is being run at Goldsmith Primary Academy in Harden on Wednesdays which will help introduce primary school children to the game.

While a lunch time class is being launched at St Peter's Catholic Primary in Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, on Fridays.

The sessions are being run by husband and wife team of coaches Ray and Eunice Dolan. They already run free classes at Bloxwich Library on a Thursday from 4-5pm and also have a club which meets each Saturday at St James Church, Old Lane, Bloxwich, between 10-11.30am.

Mr Dolan said: "It is a game of concentration and forward thinking. It can help to show them how to concentrate in lessons." Mrs Dolan added the first session on Wednesday had proved successful.

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NEWS

The hair apparent to beard and beer title

THEY travelled from all over the country with one aim in mind – to be crowned the Beard of the Year.

A brewery contest to find a man with the best facial hair to be featured in a pump clip was staged by Dudley's Fownes Brewing Co and staged at the Wheatsheaf pub, in Birmingham Road, Walsall.

And 28-year-old Michael Legge, from Rotherham, won the overall prize by no more than a whisker.

There were four categories in all: full beard, pointed beard, moustache and free-style – with the winner of each going through to the grand final.

To reach the last stage Mr Legge, a joiner, beat off tough competition from Tipton's Ben Bennett in the full beard category. Mr Bennett, a historical re-enactor from Ryland Close, celebrated his 56th birthday the day after the contest was held and said winning the competition would have been a wonderful present. "I am really pleased with coming second in the category although I suppose it was disappointing not to make the final," he said.

"Hopefully it will become an annual event."

Mr Legge, who travelled from Rotherham especially for the event, said: "I am really excited to win the overall prize. It's not everyday you have your face put on a pump clip."

Mr Legge said he had started growing his beard three years ago as a bet.

James Fownes, who runs the brewery in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal with his brother Thomas, said: "It was a really successful event. We had around 30 competitors take part in the end with people coming in from all over the country from places like Scarborough, Essex and Somerset. When



Winner Yorkshire's Michael Legge



Competitors at the Wheatsheaf pub



A baby finds talking beards a bit much



Free style winner Bex Minchin, right

we first launched the event we did not realise they was such a large community of beard growers who regularly take part in competitions of this kind.

"Congratulations to Michael and his picture will be on the beer pump of an ale we will be brewing later on in the year." Both James and Thomas both sport beards themselves. They

brand themselves as a Dwarfen brewery, with all their beers having stories drawing inspiration from Scandinavian mythology.

And they hit on the idea of launching the competition after visiting Scarborough for the Yorkshire beard day and the Wessex Beardmen's first annual competition in Somerset.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

A general view of the salon which is based in Park Place in Walsall town centre



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Creative way to find a new you



Getting Creative – treatments are available for both men and women

CREATIVE Salon has now arrived in Walsall town centre. The salon, in Park Place, was established by owners Tina and Dav Patel last December.

Tina has extensive years of experience in hairdressing and the beauty business.

Tina and Dav formed the business because they wanted to work for themselves and saw the potential to have both hair and beauty under one roof. This makes life easier for clients

by not having to visit different salons for their treatments.

They enjoy creating a relaxed environment for each client with the complete hair and beauty experience under one roof. They also realised there was a need for salons to cater for the male audience. Currently men's top treatments are haircuts, massage and hair removal which are all available at Creative Salons. Creative Salons offers the complete hair and beauty package. Treatments include a wide range, including European and Afro-Caribbean hair, hair extensions, tan-



Keep your tan topped up with the latest in sunbed treatments

ning, nail treatments and the popular non-invasive liposuction. Tina establishes a relationship with each client by listening to their needs in a patient and friendly manner to create the desired result and this where their name was created from.

To celebrate the opening of the new salon Creative Salons are offering 50 per cent off selected treatments to introduce their new beauty and hair salon to Walsall town centre. All hair and beauty treatments are available to both men and women.

Although the salon is new to

Walsall Town centre it is already popular with new clients who after their first visit are booking further appointments due to the professional, friendly atmosphere at Creative Salons. They are already an established L'Oréal Official Salon and have a wide range of beauty and hair products and gifts on sale.

So why not come along to Creative Salons and take advantage of our opening offers with expert guidance and advice from our team of beauty and hair specialists. Creativeness and trend start at creative salons!!!

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NEWS

Ex-Saddlers star Kris thanks well-wishers

A FOOTBALLER has thanked fans for their support after his diagnosis and treatment for testicular cancer.

Hednesford Town player Kris Taylor, who is a former player for the Saddlers, played and scored the day after he was given the news of the disease.

The 30 year-old father underwent an operation last month and has been continuing to receive treatment.

He took to Twitter to reveal he has been under going chemotherapy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and decided to shave his hair off. The popular player has been inundated with messages of support, including Walsall fans who have been marking the 15th minute of games with applause.

Website

He wore the number 15 shirt at the Banks's Stadium and made more than 90 appearances, including being part of the League Two title winning side in 2006/07. In a message on the Saddlers official website the father-of-one said:

"The worry of whether things will be okay, what treatment I will need and, due to my love of football, when I am going to play again have been going through my mind. Luckily those questions have been answered and my prognosis is very good."

"During this tough time, my wife has been amazing and so too have my parents. Most people know that they can rely on family and close friends for support, but I have also been over-



Footballer Kris Taylor seen in his familiar Hednesford Town kit



Kris says he has been overwhelmed by support from fans old and new

whelmed and touched by the support that I have received from the 'football community'. I have received so many kind messages and appreciate every single one of them.

"I have also heard about the gesture by the Walsall fans. Having a minute's applause during the 15th minute of matches has left me lost for words."

"I just wanted the opportunity to say a massive thank you to the Super Saddlers' supporters. Hopefully the team can give you the success that you

all richly deserve and I am delighted to see Dean Smith and the players doing so well."

The player, from Cannock, started his career with Wolves before being signed by Manchester United as a 14-year-old for £200,000. After leaving Old Trafford he joined Walsall and went on to make his first-team debut in January 2004. He left the Saddlers in 2007 and during his career he has also played for Hereford, Port Vale, Burton Albion and Telford.



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NEWS

Chief backs underage booze crackdown

A CRACKDOWN on illegal alcohol sales to underage drinkers has been backed by a council chief.

Trading standards and police carry out regular operations at pubs and off licences around Walsall to monitor whether businesses are selling to under 18 year olds.

Figures released in a report to the council's health and well-being board

revealed that 44 per cent of young people were able to achieve a sale at test purchases in pubs in 2008/09.

It was down to 33 per cent in 2012/13 and just 25 per cent from the start of the 2013 financial year until the end of December. Councillor Zahid Ali, portfolio holder for public health and protection, said: "We are delighted that the crackdown by Trading Stand-

ards and the Police is paying off and we are seeing a reduction in the number of underage sales.

"The visits are carried out during the evening when any young people drinking on the street can be dealt with by the police officer. Selling age-restricted products to a person who is underage can lead to prosecution, fines and imprisonment."

Bull terrier on rampage after he was let off lead

A FATHER has been banned from having dogs in his care for seven years and ordered to pay a total of £1,260 for allowing an out-of-control bull terrier to bite the elderly owner of another dog that it attacked in a street.

The English Bull Terrier called Ben was being taken for a walk by minder Richard Smith, but it got away after being taken off its lead.

The dog then went on to attack a border collie and its owner, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

Collie owner Barbara Morgan suffered two puncture wounds and a graze when she tried to pull Ben off her dog called Pippa on September 4 last year, in Walhouse Road, Chuckery.

Smith was found guilty following a trial last month of being a person in charge of a dog allowing it to be dangerously out of control in public place causing injury. As he was sentenced it was noted that the police had been unable to locate Ben's real owners to confiscate him.

Mrs Jane Yeomans, prosecuting, told the court Mrs Morgan, aged 71, had suffered an angina attack as a result of the incident.

"Pippa was squealing and she saw blood coming from her neck," Mrs Yeomans said. Mr Ifran Mohammed, defending Smith, aged 35, of Lincoln Road, said his client's 15-year-old daughter had been looking after Ben as a favour to 'someone'. The dog was returned days after the incident, but Smith did not know who the owner was.

He also gave Smith a 12-month Community Order with 200 hours unpaid work. He must pay £1,000 compensation to Mrs Morgan, £200 costs and £60 victims' surcharge.

Sita signs waste deal



David Wood, Councillor Mohammed Arif, Graham Mayes and Andrew Ives

A CONTRACT has been awarded to run Walsall Council's recycling centres and waste transfer station which handle around 100,000 tons of rubbish and recycling a year.

Waste company Sita UK has been awarded the £10 million contract following a tender process.

The firm will be responsible for managing and operating the waste transfer station in Fryers Road, Leamore, and household waste recycling centres in Fryers Road and Merchants Way, Aldridge.

Sita UK will take over the contract from Kier MG from April 1 and it will run for seven years, with the option of a one-year extension.

The council is aiming to maintain or increase recycling rates and reduce waste disposal costs in the coming years.

Graham Mayes, chief operating officer for Sita UK, added: "As a company we want to live in a society where there is no more waste, where everything is given a second life either through recycling or through energy-recovery."

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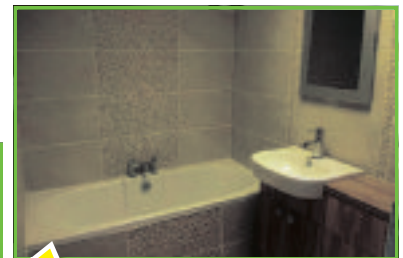
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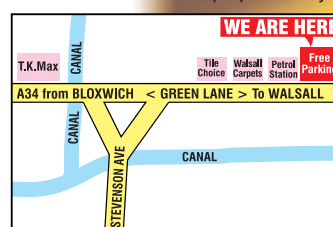
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NEWS

New technology on way for trust nurses

NURSES in the Black Country will get new technology including iPads, digital pens and clinical software after a trust was given a £89,000 cash boost.

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is one of only 75 trusts across the country to win their bid for funding. The money, awarded from the Nursing Technology Fund will be used to buy new technology to support nurses and care staff in their work. Bosses at the Trust, which

provides mental health care to people in Sandwell and Wolverhampton, said they were delighted to have been given the cash.

They say the new technology will help staff work more efficiently. The Trust also provides specialist health learning disability services in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. It also provides community healthcare for children, young people and families in Dudley.

The cash has come from the Nursing Technology Fund, which was launched last year as part of the Prime Minister's £100 million technology investment fund.

Joyce Fletcher, deputy director of nursing and professional practice at the Trust, said: "We are really pleased to have been given this money as it will allow us to support staff working on the front line to work more effectively and efficiently."

Delay on consultation
over move for market

THE second round of public consultation over plans to find a permanent location for Walsall Market has been delayed.

The next public consultation phase was expected to take place last month over plans for a permanent new town centre market, under £1.75 million proposals, but has been pushed back to March 21 and 22.

It comes as council bosses announced that traders at Walsall, Willenhall and Bloxwich markets will not face an increase in rent charges for the next financial year.

Council bosses are looking to create a long-term site for the near 800-year-old market and drafted in independent experts in order to help draw up proposals for its future.

The Bridge has emerged as the preferred option for the market as a result of feedback gathered so far.

The preferred design and layout option will be presented to traders and the public later this month, with a public exhibition due to be held at Walsall's New Art Gallery.

A planning application is due to be submitted by the end of May.

It comes as council bosses have revealed there will be no rent rise at the three council-run outdoor markets in the borough during the next financial year.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Adrian Andrew said it was good news for traders.

He said: "Healthy markets play an important role in the borough's economy as well as in the day-to-day lives of our communities."

The move has been welcomed by Tony Lerner, chairman of Walsall Market Traders Association. He said: "From our point of view, we're extremely pleased to know the rental charges will stay the same."

The first stage of the public consultation surrounding Walsall Market involved 600 leaflets being distributed to key retailers in the area, landowners and developers and customers.

College's Brand new boost



Jo Brand with representatives from the college at the awards night

COMEDIAN Jo Brand presented Walsall College with a prestigious award at a glittering award ceremony. Members of Walsall College's executive team were handed The Further Education (FE) Provider of the Year Award at Times Education Supplement FE Awards.

The event was held at the Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge, in London. Last February, it became the

first FE college in the country to be graded outstanding under the new Ofsted framework.

Jatinder Sharma, principal and chief executive of the college, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to win the TES FE Provider of the Year. Our journey to Ofsted outstanding has involved the support, hard work and commitment of our students, staff, governors and local partners."

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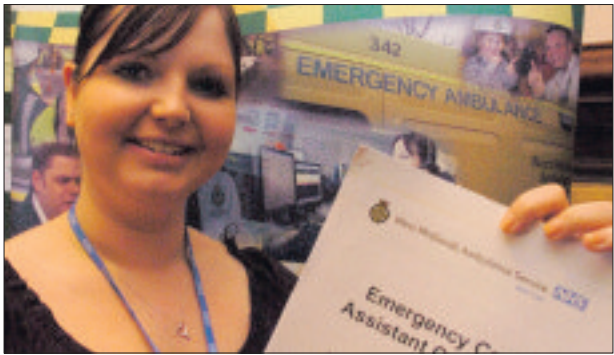
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NEWS



Recruitment adviser Louise Harris, who hopes to welcome youngsters into the profession

Healthy boost of medics recruits

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service has offered places for 137 people to become student paramedics.

A total of 1,100 people applied for the role and another 90 candidates are still completing final assessments.

The trust will be reopening the chance to apply later this year when it will be looking to recruit a further 70 student paramedics to increase its total number to 280.

Recruitment adviser Louise Harris said: "We were overwhelmed by the amazing response to the original advert. What was really pleasing was that we had applications from right across the region and from every community within it."

The first group of 33 successful applicants will start their careers with the ambulance service on April 22. Over the next

30 months, they will develop their clinical skills, learn to drive using blue lights and sirens and gain invaluable experience learning people skills, so that they can treat patients in their hours of need.

Ms Harris said: "We are very proud that the pass rate for the student paramedics is about 95 per cent, which is down to a lot of hard work on the part of the students and paramedic tutors, but also an extensive support network provided by the trust such as the mentors the individuals will be working with."

"Later on this year, we will be recruiting a further 70 student paramedics as part of the trust's commitment to have a paramedic on every vehicle. Although this is a major financial commitment, it is absolutely the right thing to do from a patient care perspective. I am sure each of the successful candidates will be elated but also a bit nervous."

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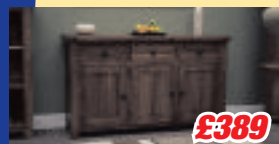
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CLUB NEWS**A recipient of Maundy Money visits****MYTIME OVER 50S**

MYTIME Over Fifties February meeting began with a talk by Roy Peacock entitled "The Queen's Jubilee Maundy Money."

Mr Peacock, a lay preacher of many years, was chosen by the Bishop of Dudley to represent the Diocese of Worcester at the Jubilee Maundy Service at York Minster in 2012.

This was a special service as the Queen had requested that every diocese in the country be represented instead of just the diocese in which the service was taking place. Some 86 men and 86 women were chosen to receive the Queen's Maundy Money and Mr Peacock was one of them.

During the Maundy Service after the reading of the first lesson, the Yeoman of the Guard appeared to assist Her Majesty with the giving of the Maundy Money to the first half of the recipients and again after the second lesson. Each recipient received two leather pouches of Maundy money, all newly minted for this occasion.

The Maundy Service is a continuation of a tradition since the 12th Century and has evolved into the presentation of the tokens of money for those men and women who have given service to their churches and communities.

At the meeting on March 26, in the Ambleside Room at Stourbridge Town Hall, the speaker George Hook's subject will be "Mother of Pearl".

Sweet talking from the guest speaker

Vice chairman Pamela Lane, committee member Elaine Lay, vice chairman of Compton Hospice Jeremy Hobbs, chairman Jane Emery and treasurer Gill Parsons

CAMEO LADIES

CAMEO Ladies were welcomed to the AGM on February 3, the first meeting of 2014. After the official business chairman Jane Emery welcomed Emma Scott who gave an interesting talk on the history of sweets.

Members enjoyed samples of sweets followed by refreshments arranged by the committee.

Jane was delighted to then welcome Jeremy Hobbs, vice chairman of Compton

Hospice, to present a cheque for £1,500 for a chairbed for patients. Monies were raised from events and raffles during the year. Each member was given a gift to commence the celebrations for the group's 20 years as CAMEO, Come And Meet Each Other. For further information on the club call 01902 330727 or 01902 844836.

Times are changing in Cuba**BROWNHILLS TG**

THE next few months are due to be very busy for Brownhills Guild. At the AGM the group will present £700 to charity, raised through a fashion show and mock auction.

The chosen charity for this year is St Giles Walsall.

There is a party on April 28 for the guild's 85th birthday. Several special guests

have been invited. Some members enjoyed a lovely evening at The Hippodrome in Birmingham where they saw Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The group hopes to go on a tour round the Mailbox and a day trip to Ashwood Nurseries will be arranged.

February's talk was about the country of Cuba, which has no trained mechanics and is very strict on rules and regulations.

Outside of the capital, poverty is prevalent and people very much relied on agriculture to make a living. However, the times are changing as money is invested.

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NEWS

Vets in award as top dog on employer list



Tim Harrison, White Cross Vets' Managing Director, with the award for being one of the UK's top employers

A WEST Midlands vets has been named as one of the UK's best employers.

White Cross Vets in Bloxwich became the first vets practice to be named as a three-star 'extraordinary' employer in the Sunday Times 'Best Small Companies to Work For' league table's 13-year history last year.

The firm repeated the success again this year and also climbed three places in this year's table, which puts it in 45th place.

The judging panel surveyed a large proportion of the company's 100 plus employees, across 12 practices, about a wide range of employment related issues.

Managing director Tim Harrison said: "Ultimately people who enjoy coming to work will provide high standards of service so a large part of our company ethos is about creating a great place to work."

"It's fantastic that this has resulted in us being named as one of the UK's best employers for the second year running."

High note for cancer choir with first event

A NEW choir for people who have been affected by cancer have performed their first concert to a packed out audience.

Members of the Second Chance Cancer Choir sang well-known songs by Abba, Bette Midler and John Denver, at Yew Tree and Tamebridge Community Centre in Walsall. The group was set up in January by Helen Shorthouse.

The 49-year-old from the Yew Tree Estate started the choir after her partner, Debby, was diagnosed with cancer. She said: "I had to look after Debby when she was at her worst and I have seen other friends and family also have to go through this ordeal."

"That inspired me to set up the choir at the start of January as a way of taking people out of the hospital and putting them in a happy, friendly environment."

"We have male and female members in their mid-forties to their 70s who are going through various stages of treatment but they really enjoy coming to rehearsals once a week."

The choir, which has 24 members, sang to family and friends and local busi-

By Charlotte Lilley

ness owners, as well as representatives from Cancer Research UK.

Miss Shorthouse said she is now taking event bookings for the choir to perform at. She added: "At each concert we will have collection buckets to raise money for Cancer Research because it is a fantastic charity."

"Our next big performance will be on March 21, again at the centre and we have also been booked to sing at the town hall in West Bromwich. We have already begun to take Christmas bookings and ideally I would like more people to sign up and sing with us."

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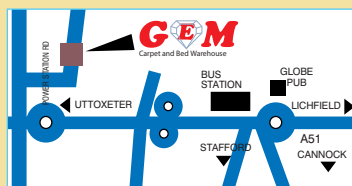
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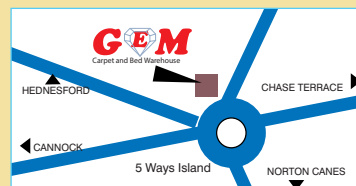


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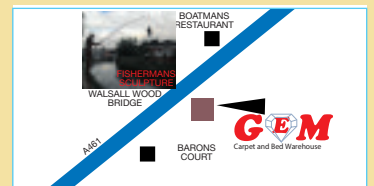


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MEMORY LANE



Julie in 1991 with Princess Diana at the opening of the Maternity Unit at the Manor Hospital



'Amazing smile' - Former Pc Julie seen in 2005



Saddlers fan Julie in the 1980's at the then Walsall FC ground Fellows Park



Julie at a crime prevention stand at the Saddlers Centre



Julie's husband Mark with daughter Danielle Roberts

Royal flower girl Julie, who lit up force with her dazzling smile

by Craig Hughes

SHE met Princess Diana, Muhammad Ali and was regularly seen on police duty covering her beloved football club, the Saddlers.

Tributes have now been paid to former police officer Julie Skidmore who served in the Black Country during her 30 year career in the force, and who lost her six year battle with ovarian cancer last month.

More than 400 people attended her funeral on Monday. The popular 56 year-old from Walsall was the first female officer at Saddlers games and was even captured on camera kicking the ball back into play at the old Fellows Park ground.

She continued to hold the football club close to her heart as a fan and even worked in the Besoat Stadium control room after her retirement from the force.

During her three decades patrolling the beat in Walsall she received a commendation for bravery in 1996 after being threatened with a 14 inch sword after executing a search warrant in Pleck.

She was known to many in the community under her maiden name Dale having joined the force in August 1976.

She mainly covered the town centre, Alumwell, Pleck and Caldmore areas and later on was also involved with CID.

The grandmother-of-one was diagnosed with cancer and would regularly travel to Surrey for treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Even during this and following her retirement she still worked as a civilian at stations including Erdington, Sutton Coldfield and at Lloyd House in Birmingham. She would help set up open days.

Following her diagnosis her family were braced she may have up to just two more years, but due to her determination and care she prolonged her life for years more.

She underwent clinical trials at the hospital and after the support she received the Julie Skidmore Climb Every Mountain Fund has been created in her honour and will raise money for the Royal Marsden

Cancer Charity. A charity walk of 40 miles from Walsall to Port Vale for the game in April is also being planned to raise money for the cause.

Mrs Skidmore, of Pelsall, passed away last month and leaves behind husband of 27 years Mark and daughter Danielle.

After being able to prolong her life in the last she managed to see her daughter get married, welcome the birth of her first grandchild Georgy last year and go to her favourite place Salzburg.

Amazing

Daughter Danielle, aged 27, said: "She was very bubbly, very infectious and it has hit everyone very hard."

"She lived for everybody else, she would do anything for anybody, she had this amazing smile."

"She remained a Wpc, she never really wanted to climb the ladder, on reflection she always said maybe I should have done it but she was always involved in the community. She was the first female police officer to police a game down at Fellows Park. She

was notorious for being on the touchline and there is a picture of her kicking the football in her uniform. She still worked as a civilian while she was having treatment."

As a police officer she helped set up Hospital Watch to help improve security at Walsall Manor.

She was on security duty when boxer Ali was in Birmingham for a promotional event and one of her biggest highlights was to meet Princess Diana when she visited the hospital's maternity unit in 1991.

Danielle, aged 27, said: "When Diana was given flowers she passed them back to her, she called herself Diana's flower girl. She loved it she was so proud."

Mrs Skidmore and the fundraising in her memory will be featured in the Walsall matchday programme for the weekend's game against Wolves.

The funeral took place at St Peter's Church in Little Aston on Monday with the police force doing a guard of honour. For more information about the fund in her memory visit the www.justgiving.com/remember/105725/Julie-Skidmore website.

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Domicil Hamburg Brown Leather 3+1 electric set was £3699 now £1899	Lazboy Phoenix Fabric 3 seater manual with chair electric was £2999 now £1299	Corium Cortina White Leather 2 seater sofa was £1795 now £899	G Plan Heritage Large Sideboard was £999 now £699	Natuzzi Pelmo Collection Tan Leather 3+2+1+Stool was £3199 now £1599	Steed Gleneagles Fabric Collection 2+1 package was £3999 now £1999	Relaxateeze Helena Fabric Collection 2 seater sofa was £399 now £249	Celebrity Sovereign Fabric Collection 2 seater sofa was £799 now £499	Buoyant Fairfield Fabric Collection 2+1+Stool was £1299 now £899

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FOCUS ON PELSALL

Princesses and queens are sought

BUDDING carnival queens, princesses and rosebuds are invited to line up for this year's Pelsall competition.

The events to choose young representatives for Pelsall Carnival will be held at Pelsall Community Centre, in Station Road.

The carnival queen competition takes place on April 27 from 1.15 pm, with girls aged 15 to 25 invited to apply. Contenders must live in the Walsall area.

A carnival princess and rosebud competition for 11 to 14-year-olds and six to 10-year-olds is taking place on the same day at 3pm.

A carnival page boy competition will take place at the same time for boys aged six to 10. They must all live in the Pelsall area. The carnival will be held on July 5.

For more information call Ian Rhydderch, Pelsall Carnival secretary, on 01922 684695.

Revamp for pub finishes

A WELL-KNOWN pub is back open after a £235,000 revamp. The work at The Archers in Thorncroft Way, Walsall has lasted for six weeks. New décor was fitted and a new kitchen built.

The project was funded by leaseholders Barry Price and Nicola Tansell and owners Punch Taverns. Mr Price said: "We've worked really hard to transform the pub into a welcoming venue."

Village roadworks part of borough-wide scheme

A NUMBER of road projects are being carried out around Walsall over the coming weeks, as improvements are scheduled for completion before the Easter holidays.

Among these are roadworks in Pelsall, which are due to be finished by April 4. There is currently disruption to traffic in the village, but only during off-peak periods on Green Lane.

The project is affecting Green Lane between its junctions with B4154 Norton Road and Highfield Road, with closures only required occasionally and access to local properties is still available. Work is being carried out between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

A diversion is in place when necessary, via Highfield Road, A4124 Wolverhampton Road and B4154 Norton Road. Several other projects have been earmarked for March.

Joints were this week replaced on the Pleck Loop Bridge, on the M6, with overnight lane closures on the southbound motorway

by Craig Hughes

carriageway between junctions 10 at Walsall and nine at Wednesbury.

Last week part of Cemetery Road in Darlaston was closed for highway maintenance works are being carried out from last Friday for 12 nights between 6.30pm until 6am.

A diversion is in operation using Darlaston Road, Heath Road, Willenhall Road, Crescent Road and Wolverhampton Road West.

Elsewhere, Manor Road, Streetly, was closed between the junctions of Chester Road and Thornhill Road, last week.

Jobs fair call to bosses

BUSINESSES are being urged to take part in an employment fair. Walsall Adult & Community College is staging the event at the Forest Arts Centre in Bloxwich on March 27 from 9.30am to 12pm. Interim principal Jev Bhalla said: "It will give local employers the opportunity to network and meet potential new employees. Call 01922 663000."



Swimmer Ellie Simmonds seen during a question and answer session with Year 8 pupils

Ellie dips in for q&a at school

THE London 2012 Olympic slogan promised to 'inspire a generation', and that's what Paralympic gold-medal winner Ellie Simmonds aimed for during a question and answer session with school pupils.

The 19-year-old from Aldridge popped into St Michael's CE High School in Rowley Regis to answer a host of questions from a theatre-full of students. It is hoped the initiative will have inspired the year eight children to achieve not just in sport, but also at school and other areas of their life.

The visit was organised as the school's head of RE is a family friend of the four-time Paralympic swimming champion.

Assistant headteacher Faye Jeffreys said: "This is about raising achievement, to get students more access to aspiring role models. It's also improving their questioning skills."

Tickets on offer for new play

A PAIR of tickets to a new play and a free riding lesson, can be won by taking part in a competition.

Walsall Museum is offering the chance to win tickets to the first performance of The Life and Times of the Tat Man by local playwright David Calcutt.

It will take place at the museum on April 12.

To enter, people need to write a short story of 500 words or less on the theme of horses. Email stories to museum@walsall.gov.uk or post them to Walsall Museum, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TR, including contact details.

The deadline is midday on March 28. The winner will also receive a free riding lesson at Lodge Farm Equestrian in Aldridge.

Entrants must be 13 years or older and under 18s will need parental consent.

Cleaned up fields reopen

ONCE-CONTAMINATED playing fields that have been cleaned up to the tune of £400,000 will be officially reopened on Saturday.

Ball games have not been played at Broadway West Playing Fields since 2003 after routine soil examinations revealed significant levels of dangerous metals.

Palfrey councillor Allah Ditta said archery will be among the initial sports activities lined up for the site.

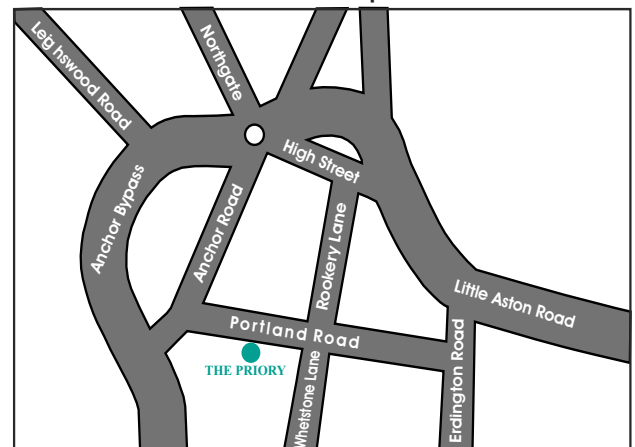
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An ideal environment to develop a range of skills

STAFF and pupils feel happy and safe in the St Francis of Assisi community, where teachers and learners have a close working relationship. This creates strong support for students to achieve their ambitions and aspirations.

Students of the sixth form, based in Aldridge, are encouraged to be independent, creative and confident young people.

They are taught from the start to be hard working and dedicated, with a scholarly attitude towards school and the wider world of work.

It is incredibly easy to become overwhelmed with school work when you make the decision to continue with further education.

Potential

However, at SFA, the teaching faculty is dedicated to ensuring students achieve their full academic potential. Staff ensure students have a strong support system to assist in overcoming difficulties they may face during their time there.

A spokesman said: "We believe it is vital to demonstrate proactive behaviour and work hard in order to be the best that we can be, therefore at St Francis we carry out our motto, 'Nil satis nisi optimum' – Only the best is good enough."

Sixth form students play a vital role in the school community and are involved in most events held during and after school, where they engage with the younger students, parents and teachers alike.



St Francis' head boy and girl, and their deputies



Former students celebrating Aspirations Day at the college



Creativity is an important aspect of learning

Students are expected to be role models inside and outside of school, and evidence of this can be witnessed in the dedication the head boy, head girl, senior prefects and subject ambassadors show.

The Catholic ethos is the heart of the school and morals and beliefs shape the community. This creates an environment where everybody is seen as an individual and is important.

SFA has pupils from as far afield as Lichfield and Tamworth as well as students from Birmingham, Walsall, Sutton and Aldridge

itself. Whatever career path you decide to pursue, the school will provide the support and guidance in order to ensure you have the best chance of achieving your goals.

Students are also provided with a wide range of opportunities to help develop a perspective of the world around them. For example, they take part in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Further opportunities, such as university visits or outside speakers giving expert talks on their field of work, ensure there is a clear awareness of the future paths students hope

to take post-18. What makes the sixth form excel is the opportunities on offer to consolidate learning and help SFA students stand out when they move on to higher education, training or employment.

St Francis of Assisi is perfect for any student who wants a happy, secure and successful place to study.

The school has highly qualified staff to guide students to success and it firmly believes if you show ambition and passion for your subject then you will achieve success in every way possible.

Rated Good and Outstanding by Ofsted

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Emphasis on the wider community



Performing well - academy youngsters are looking to the world outside their school and how it affects them

THE Mirus Academy in Walsall places great emphasis on working with the local community and wider world.

This enables pupils to have a significant impact on their local community and contribute to causes which they feel they wish to support.

Currently pupils studying citizenship are involved in a local road safety campaign and have set up a petition and worked with Councillor Lee Jeavons in an attempt to make the local

roads safer for young people. They are also involved with Walsall Housing Group and took part in a consultation exercise to discuss social issues relating to young people such as lack of facilities and causes of anti-social behaviour in the local area. Nursery and reception pupils worked alongside community police and fire officers to find out about the work they do.

Recently, pupils raised more than £1,000 for various local charities. Each family group has a chosen charity and pupils enjoy organising lots of fun events in which pupils and staff

take part to raise as much as they can to support local causes e.g. cake sales, quizzes, making and selling greetings cards, sponsored silence and sponsored fitness, a man v food competition, hot chocolate sale, dodgeball and also a raffle.

The academy is particularly proud of the money recently raised to support St Giles Hospice in Walsall.

Being part of The Mirus Academy is more than just about lessons, staff are very proud of all pupils who participate in making The Mirus Academy a special place to live and learn.

Advertisement Feature



GOING FOR GOLD, A NEW START AT THE MIRUS ACADEMY

A message from Dan Neal - Interim Principal

The Mirus Academy is an all-through academy which is committed in its drive towards excellence and a learning community where every decision is based on the sole priority of what is best for our students. As Interim Principal there have been many changes recently at The Mirus Academy. Primarily we have focused on a new Behaviour for Learning code which rewards student's positive contributions to the Academy, both within lessons and outside the normal curriculum.

This is the first of a number of significant changes that will improve the outcomes for students.

We are looking forward to introducing a new data system called Go 4 Schools, which will allow staff, parents and students the opportunity to monitor the progress of individuals within the Academy.

As an academy we are focused on improving the outcomes for our students and to this end we are addressing key areas through a rapid improvement plan with the aim of being rated good in two years' time, working towards outstanding.

Our local community and the views of our parents are important to us to help drive forward our future vision and ambition. We engage in many community events and work with our local council and partners to enhance learning opportunities for pupils age 3-19 years. Pupils and Staff are always busy raising funds for charity and more recently we took part in achieving the Gold Award for Bloxwich in Bloom July 2013. We hope to build on this great success as we aim to instil civic pride in our pupils to look after their local areas and give something back to their local community.

Our sponsor Walsall College provides outstanding provision for our students to progress onto further education. We are also in partnership with The Black Country UTC to increase the breadth of Post 16 provision. In the future we will continue to see more fun, enhanced learning opportunities and engaging projects coming on board. Working with our parents and our local community is a priority to the Academy and we aim to strengthen our links with Parents, Community, Council and Local Businesses. This in turn will improve your child's chances of success and achievement.

As Interim Principal, I have the privilege of working with the best staff to deliver an education that prepares our students for their futures. Whether you are a parent/carer or student; or just interested in what we have to offer, further information is available on our website at www.themirusacademy.co.uk.

Please come and see us or make an appointment to secure your child's future.

Mr D J Neal



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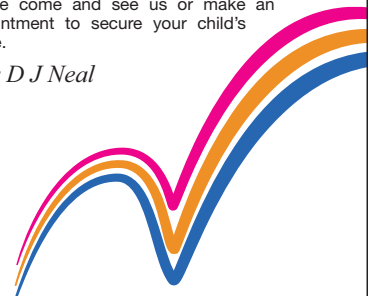
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Principal sets out his vision for the future of academy

TOM Ashley feels it's a great privilege to be principal of Willenhall E-ACT Academy and is relishing the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of students.

His vision is to make Willenhall E-ACT Academy's students flourish and succeed; only the best for his students will do.

Very positive improvements in results were recorded last year, bucking the trend shown by many other schools and academies across England.

The nine per cent increase in A* to C grade GCSEs, and the impressive statistic Willenhall's post-16 results were amongst the top five in the area, show that Willenhall E-ACT Academy is moving in the right direction.

The core values at Willenhall are to deliver a high quality, balanced curriculum supported by up-to-date teaching which will fully progress all students to the next stage of their development.

It is vitally important to Willenhall staff they develop young people who will contribute positively to society, and plans are in place to become the best performing academy in the area, setting the standards in both teaching and learning.

There will be an opening evening for parents of current Year 6 students due to attend Willenhall in September on Tuesday, March 11. This will give everyone an opportunity to tour the academy and meet the principal, senior members of staff, subject teachers and support staff.

Parents whose children are not signed up to attend Willenhall E-ACT Academy in September 2014, but are interested in attending



A core value at the school involves delivering a high quality and balanced curriculum for all its pupils

the open evening, can contact the academy as there are still a limited number of places available for this year's Year 7.

New for this coming academic year at Willenhall E-ACT Academy is the Willenhall passport, which is an offer made to all students highlighting exactly what Willenhall E-ACT Academy will provide now and in the future.

This includes offers all hard-working stu-

dents the chance to gain the best possible grades at GCSEs, free uniform to new Year 7 students starting in September 2014, and a guarantee of access to a wide variety of trips including visits to London, trips abroad and a residential to outward bound centres around the UK.

Students due to start in September will soon be invited to take part in a transition programme consisting of taster days show-

casing some of the fantastic learning opportunities available to those studying at Willenhall.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend additional sessions during holidays to take part in fun activities, trips and have chance to make new friends.

This is a great way for students to get to know staff and fellow students they will be spending time with from September.



It's very important to staff that young people



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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 15.03.14
CHOICE

Matthew Rhys

The Americans
ITV, 9.20pm
The mid-1980s 'Reds Under the Bed' saga returns for a new run, and Russian spy Elizabeth (Keri Russell) has recovered from her injuries sustained on the last mission. Getting home in time for her son Henry's birthday party, she and Philip (Matthew Rhys) attempt to restore the façade of their all-American lifestyle. While Henry is thrilled to have his mum back (she been "caring for a sick aunt"), daughter Paige is not so easily fooled. Her growing concerns about her parents' unusual activities have continued to escalate while the matriarch was away.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 2.45pm). **4.35** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.15** **The Voice UK**. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first knockout round, in which the coaches reduce their teams of seven down to the three acts that will perform in the live shows. Continues tomorrow. **8.35** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which strangers pair up to win money. Including the National Lottery draws. Last in the series. **9.25** **Casualty**. Iain's troubled former Army mate Kenny takes him and Big Mac hostage, a woman takes a fall after complaining about a noisy party and Fletch's wife Natalie goes into labour. **10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Hull City v Manchester City at the KC Stadium and Aston Villa v Chelsea at Villa Park; National Lottery Update. **12.05** The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Nottingham Forest v Doncaster Rovers. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **6.40** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.10** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.40** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.10** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.40** Life on Earth. (R) **9.35** Life on Earth. (R) **10.30** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.00** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.45** Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35** Film: Rope. (1948) **2.55** Formula 1 - Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **4.25** Final Score. **5.30** Llanelli House Restored. **6.30** **Flag It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R) **7.30** **Dad's Army**. Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans - but it results in Pike getting trapped in the middle of a minefield. (R) **8.00** **The Perfect Morescombe & Wise**. Eric and Ernie give their take on Starsky & Hutch, have a run-in with Henry Cooper and persuade Cliff Richard to join them in a musical number. Featuring a song by Small Faces. **8.30** **Viking Art: A Culture Show Special**. Andrew Graham-Dixon explores the Vikings: Life and Legend exhibition at the British Museum, learning how the Norsemen forged a network connecting their culture over four continents. **9.30** QI. With Jack Dee. (R) **10.00** **Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle**. (R) **10.30** **Paget Brewster**. (R) **12.10** Film: Unrelated. (2007) **1.50** Film: Battle Beyond the Stars. (1980) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled. **8.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.05** The Unforgettable Larry Grayson. (R) **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.25** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) **5.30** Regional Programme. Weather. **5.40** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed!** **Top 100 Senior Moments**. Harry Hill counts down through 100 memorable videos sent in by viewers, featuring giddy grandpateries, cheeky pensioners and absent-minded mistakes from the middle-aged. **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway**. The Georgie duo turn the tables on Holly Willoughby on Surprise Surprise and the cast of The Commitments takes part in a St Patrick's Day-themed End of the Show Show. **8.20** **The Cube**. A windsurfing instructor and a seamstress tackle a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.20** **The Americans**. New series. A routine operation goes awry, with worrying implications. **10.15** **ITV News**: Weather. **10.30** Film: The Return. (2006) Thriller, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **12.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

11.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the eighth day of events in Russia. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.10** Channel 4 News. **6.35** **Paralympic Winter Games Highlights**. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan look back at the eighth day of events in Russia, which included alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, sledging and wheelchair curling. **7.05** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. As the agents organise a full-scale hunt for their missing leader, Coulson uncovers vital information about the mystery of his death - but Centipede is baying for blood. (R) **8.00** **Hostages**. After one of the president's staff is murdered, the victim's colleagues decide to take matters into their own hands, while Ellen finds someone who might be a viable donor for Nina. **9.00** **Film: Limitless**. (2011) A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Sci-fi thriller, starring Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro. **11.05** **Film: The Rum Diary**. (2011) Premiere. A New York journalist relocates to Puerto Rico in the 1960s, where he is drawn into the schemes of a corrupt businessman. Comedy drama, with Johnny Depp and Aaron Eckhart. **1.20** The Good Wife. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Trans World Sport. **5.05** Mobil 1. **5.30** Live Paralympic Winter Games.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.15** Police 5. (R) **10.45** It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief. (R) **11.45** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **12.45** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.45** Film: Kate & Leopold. (2001) Time travel romantic comedy, with Hugh Jackman and Meg Ryan. **3.55** Film: Columbo: Publish or Perish. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.25** Film: Columbo: Prescription Murder. (1968) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **7.05** **NCIS**. The unit is tipped off about terrorist activity, but two agents are murdered during the ensuing investigation - and Paula Cassidy holds herself responsible for the tragedy. (R) **8.00** **NCIS**. McGee is shocked to discover that a double murder appears to have been inspired by his latest novel - and realises one of his colleagues could become the killer's third target. (R) **9.00** **NCIS**. Jenny Shepard tries to solve the murder of an underworld source who was prepared to give information on the activities of arms dealer La Grenouille. Starring Lauren Holly. (R) **9.55** **5 News Weekend**. **10.00** **Live Boxing**. Coverage of the first two quarter-finals in the Maxi Nutrition Knockout from the Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading, where the light heavyweight tournament begins. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

Listings supplied by Press Association

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who **8.20** Top Gear: Burma Special **9.20** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.55** Family Guy **BBC Four**
7.00 Great Barrier Reef **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Salamander **10.30** Motown at the BBC **11.30** Smokey Robinson Live in Hyde Park **ITV2**
2.40 Film: Flipper (1996) **4.40** Britain's Got More Talent: Funniest Moments Ever! LOL Moments **5.40** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.35** Film: Batman & Robin (1997) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Film: 40 Days and 40 Nights (2002) **ITV3**
3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Remembrance & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **ITV4**
3.45 Film: The War Wagon (1967) **5.50** Film: Field of Dreams (1989) **8.00** Hornblower: Naval drama, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **10.00** Film: The Day of the Jackal (1973) **E4**
4.00 Rude(ish) Tube **5.00** 2 Broke Girls **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Aliens (1986) **Film4**
2.55 Dear John (2010) **5.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **7.00** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **9.00** Easy A (2010) A teenage girl lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, with Emma Stone and Penn Badgley. **10.50** Silent House (2011)

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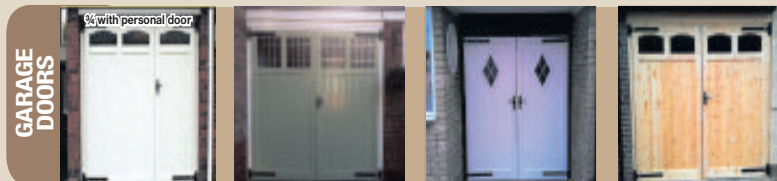
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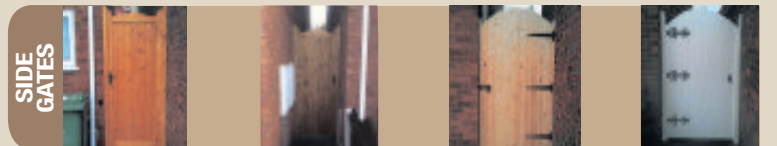

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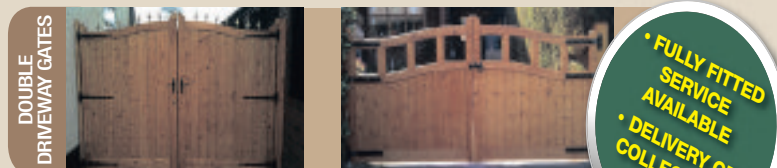
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What's On!

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SUNDAY'S TV 16.03.14

CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

Live from Space: Lap of the Planet

Channel 4, 7.30pm
Forget Around the World in 80 Days – this pioneering programme aims to take us around the globe in just 90 minutes. That's because a lot of it is coming live from the International Space Station, which over the course of the two-hour broadcast will be orbiting 250 miles above the Earth at speeds of up to 17,500 miles-per-hour. And when they're not sharing their incredible views of our planet, two of the ISS's English-speaking astronauts, Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata will be interacting with the Earth-bound public.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Formula 1 – Australian Grand Prix Highlights. 4.00 Deadly 60 on a Mission: Pole to Pole. 4.35 Lineup. 4.45 Regional Programme. 5.15 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 6.15 Blandings. Connie tries to impress Colonel Fanshawe in the hope that Clarence might succeed him as Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. But her chances look slim when Beach starts acting oddly.

6.45 Countryfile. Reports from Somerset, hearing how a silage food bank has been set up to help animals evacuated in the floods and a visit to a factory using horse hair to make textiles. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.45 The Voice UK. The line-up for the live shows is revealed as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson settle on the three acts they are each taking through to the quarter-finals.

9.00 The Musketeers. The King calls a contest to settle the rivalry between the Musketeers and Red Guards, giving d'Artagnan a chance to prove himself – but he must learn to control his temper.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2.

11.25 Film: Minority Report. (2002) Sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise.

1.45 Weather. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) 7.30 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 8.30 Countryfile. (R) 9.25 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.55 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.25 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.10 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 1.10 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 2.10 Film: Rear Window. (1954) 4.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. 4.30 Collectables. (R) 5.30 The End of the Pier Show.

6.00 The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers meet enthusiasts restoring machinery from the Industrial Revolution, beginning with a visit to Pleasley Colliery in Derbyshire. (R)

7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. Gordon Buchanan and Justine Evans go in search of the sun bear, the Asian golden cat and the clouded leopard, and undercover filming in a border town leads to a shocking discovery. (R)

8.00 Top Gear: Burma Special. Part two of two. The three presenters venture into a state riven by civil war. Last in the series.

9.00 Fast and Fearless: Britain's Banger Racers. Part two of two. Former champions come out of retirement for a memorial race.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Britain. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

10.35 Line of Duty. (R)

11.35 Film: The Shooting Party. (1985) Period drama.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

2.05 Holby City. (R) 3.05 Silk. (R)

4.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.15 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.20 Spooky. (R) 7.30 Scrambled. 8.25 ITV News. 9.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 11.20 TV News: Weather. 11.30 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) 1.35 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 2.20 Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) 4.15 Film: The Man with the Golden Gun. (1974)

6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Catchphrase. New series. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Harry's South Pole Heroes. Part one of two. Prince Harry joins four injured British soldiers on a 125-mile expedition in the Antarctic as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry asks Delphine to organise a special event in store.

10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather.

10.15 You Saw Them Here First. More TV debates by some of Britain's best-known faces. (R)

11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Action from the final.

12.15 The Store. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

10.30 Sunday Brunch. 1.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.50 The Simpsons. (R) 2.20 The Simpsons. (R) 2.50 Deal or No Deal. 3.45 Paralympic Winter Games: Closing Ceremony. The Games conclude in spectacular style at the Olympic Stadium in Sochi. 5.55 Channel 4 News.

6.30 The Floods That Foiled New Year: Caught on Camera. Documentary looking at the flooding that caused misery for thousands of homeowners across the nation throughout winter, featuring eyewitness testimony and expert commentary. (R)

7.30 Live from Space: Lap of the Planet. Astronauts on board the International Space Station complete a live 90-minute orbit of Earth, while Dermot O'Leary is with them playing support in Houston. Last in the series.

10.05 Film: Terminator Salvation. (2009) In the future, resistance fighter John Connor leads a war against the deadly robots that have taken over the world. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Christian Bale and Sam Worthington.

12.15 Film: Memento. (2000) A man searches for his wife's killer in spite of the short-term memory loss he sustained during the same attack. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Guy Pearce and Carrie-Anne Moss. 2.10 The Good Wife. Alicia represents a teenage pop star. (R)

2.55 One Born Every Minute. A couple await the arrival of their fifth son. (R) 3.45 Location, Location, Location. Two families who have relocated to Aberdeen for work. (R) 4.04 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.35 Freesports on 4.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fill and the Floortoppers. (R) 6.25 Bubble Guppies. (R) 6.35 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 City of Friends. (R) 7.45 Milkshake! Pop Box. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.00 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.15 Mo Mao. (R) 8.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.35 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 8.40 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) 11.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. 11.25 Film: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011) 1.30 Film: Dr Dolittle 3. (2006) 3.20 Film: Arthur and the Invisibles. (2006) 5.05 Film: The Haunted Mansion. (2003)

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army. (2008) The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince, who plans to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair.

9.00 Film: Killer Elite. (2011) Premiere. A former secret agent takes on one last mission to save a mentor, but assassins are sent to stop him. Action thriller, with Jason Statham.

11.15 Film: On Deadly Ground. (1994) Ecological thriller.

1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel. 7.20 Film: Alice in Wonderland. (2010) 8.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Bluestone 42 11.15 American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways. 8.00 Oh Do Shut Up Dear! Many Beard on the Subject of Voice of Women 9.00 Timewatch: QE2 – The Final Voyage 10.00 Film: Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky (2009) 11.50 Britain on Film: Dedicated Followers of Fashion

ITV2
3.55 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 5.20 Film: About a Boy (2002) 7.15 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 9.00 Educating Jesse 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Parly Wright Around the World 11.50 The Big Reunion 2014

ITV3
3.40 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 4.50 Inspector Morse 7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst 10.00 Lewis

ITV4
3.00 Film: The War Wagon (1967) 5.05 Film: Destrý Rides Again (1939) 7.00 Storage Wars 8.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union 9.00 Film: The Interpreter (2004)

E4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Mission: Impossible (1996) 10.15 Rude Tube: Rude Tubes

Film4
2.50 Carry On Dick (1974) 4.40 The Wedding Planner (2001) 6.45 Mad Money (2008) 9.00 Conviction (2010) Fact-based drama. 11.05 Sexy Beast (2000)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, Channel 5, 11pm

A Nascar racing champion has everything he could want – until an arrogant French rival seizes the title from him, and his wife runs off with his best friend. Forced to move back in with his parents, the downhearted driver faces a battle to rebuild his shattered self-confidence and return to the track. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, John C Reilly and Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

TUESDAY

Cries in the Dark, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A cop investigates her pregnant sister's murder, and discovers her baby was delivered but is being held captive by the killer. Thriller, starring Eva La Rue and Adam Harrington. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Brokeback Mountain, Channel 4, 12.05am

A doomed love affair between two Wyoming cowboys develops over the course of 20 years. The relationship begins when they are hired to herd sheep on a remote mountain in the 1960s, and though they go their separate ways and try to settle down to married life, they are unable to overcome their desire for each other and continue to meet in secret. Ang Lee's drama, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. (2005)



Revolutionary Road, Friday, BBC2, 11.10pm

THURSDAY

Sea Devils, Channel 4, 12.50pm

A smuggler in 19th-century Cornwall sneaks a woman into France, only to discover he has accidentally helped a spy flee the country. However, he later realises she is actually a double agent plotting to foil Napoleon's invasion of England. Swashbuckling adventure, starring Rock Hudson and Yvonne de Carlo. (1953)

FRIDAY

Duplicity, ITV, 10.35pm

A former CIA agent and an ex-MI6 officer find their romantic past catching up with them as they go head to head working in counter-intelligence for multinational corporations. As they try to outmanoeuvre each other to gain information about a lucrative product, they have difficulty maintaining a professional focus amid the sexual tension. Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. (2009)

Revolutionary Road, BBC2, 11.10pm

Frank and April Wheeler live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth are growing frustrated with their lot and feel stifled by their situation. When April suggests the family moves to France to start a new life, Frank is persuaded it is a good idea, though when he is offered a stable job with a lucrative pay packet he changes his mind. 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Dermot's new project is out of this world

Dermot O'Leary is no stranger to the pressures of live TV – after all, he's the man who has had to get Louis Walsh to make his mind up about who he's sending home on The X Factor.

But now he's about take on an even bigger challenge, as he helms a ground-breaking broadcast from the International Space Station.

The presenter won't actually be going into orbit himself, but he's thrilled just to be our man at Mission Control in Houston.

Dermot says: "This is such a mega and amazing programme to be part of, I am so looking forward to presenting it and I cannot wait.

"Going live with a TV show is always great, but to be able to say 'now we are going live to the Space Station' will be a fantastic and surreal experience."

It's going to be fairly mind-blowing for viewers as well, as the programme aims to take us around the world in 90 minutes – over the course of the broadcast, the space

station will be orbiting 250 miles above the Earth at speeds of up to 17,500 miles-per-hour.

And when they're not sharing their incredible views of our planet, two of the ISS's English-speaking astronauts, Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata, will be interacting with the Earth-bound public.

No doubt Dermot will have a few questions for them as well. "For me, the point of going into television is I am always interested in people – whether it is an astronaut or a cab driver. I love getting stories and it is why I do the job I do.

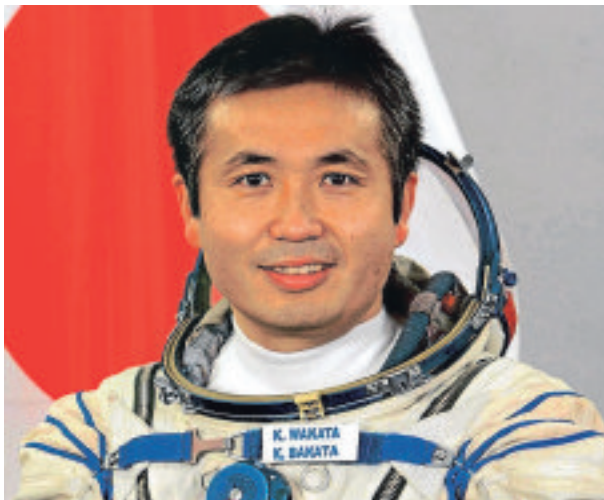
"My fascination for this programme is two-fold. Aside from the live link-up and how brilliant that will be, there is that macabre thing where you wonder what you would do if something goes wrong. How do they deal with it? What do they do? Then there are the ordinary, daily things like how do they shave? How do they go about their day-to-day lives? Everything about it all fascinates me."

Although Dermot admits he's not an expert on space exploration, he does have a few boffins on hand.

He'll be joined in Houston by Mike Massimino, one of the astronauts who helped repair and upgrade the Hubble Telescope, but who might be best known to regular Channel 4 watchers for his cameo appearances on The Big Bang Theory, and there are also contributions from Stephen Hawking and British astronaut Tim Peake.

So after doing all the research and preparation for the show, and rubbing shoulders with the experts, is there a part of Dermot that wishes he was broadcasting from the Space Station itself?

He says: "You don't realise that when you talk about what it would be like to be an astronaut. The level of sacrifice they have to make is extraordinary and they have to be so fit and intelligent. They do have a certain purpose up there and the science that goes into it all really fascinates me – but no, I don't want to be an astronaut!"



Live from Space: Lap of the Planet, Sunday, Channel 4, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Widower
ITV, 9pm

The League of Gentlemen, Psychoville and the recent Inside No 9 all proved that Reece Shearsmith likes his comedy on the creepy side. But he's set to be even more unsettling in this new three-part drama, not least because it's inspired by a true story. Shearsmith stars as Malcolm Webster, whose new wife Claire (Sheridan Smith) is concerned by his mounting debts – but rather than sort out his finances, he instead tries to get her under control by systematically plying her with drugs, and then resorts staging a car accident, which claims her life. After collecting the life insurance cheque for £200,000, Malcolm moves to New Zealand and starts a new life, but old patterns start to repeat themselves...

The Plantagenets
BBC2, 9pm

They may not have got their own sexy mini-series like the Tudors, but the Plantagenets can take some comfort in the fact that no other dynasty managed to reign over England for so long. From Henry II's accession to the throne in 1154 until Richard III's death in 1485, they ruled the land – and now Professor Robert Bartlett is telling the Plantagenet story. He begins, fittingly enough, with Henry II, looking at how he created an empire that took in much of France as well as England. But his legacy was threatened by his warring sons Richard and John, who at one point looked set to destroy the royal house.

TUESDAY

Sheldahl
BBC1, 9pm

Perez and his team work against the clock to catch the killer of Catherine, a young girl found dead on a beach. He is in a dream-like state of shock when seven-year-old Catriona Bruce's body is discovered on a hill clutching a doll. The law enforcer thinks it's the same doll he sees in a photo at Magnus Bain's house, so the recluse is taken in for questioning while a mob expresses its anger. Though he tries to get answers, Perez just gets a whining from the suspect, and just before he's locked in a prison cell, Magnus lashes out. Douglas Henshall, Sophia Carr-Gomm and Brian Cox head the cast.

Undercover Doctor: Cure Me, I'm Gay
Channel 4, 10pm

Dr Christian Jessen is most famous for going about his medical business on Channel 4 favourites Embarrassing Bodies and Supersize vs Superskinny, and until now his homosexuality has never been relevant to his media work. However, this one-off documentary investigates matters close to his heart, namely attitudes towards gay people, and sees Christian going undercover to investigate – and undertake – controversial gay 'cures', both here and over in America. The doc is shocked to discover that there are some

people who believe homosexuality to be a disorder that needs curing, so he's eager to prove or disprove their claims by offering himself up for the treatment.

WEDNESDAY

W1A
BBC2, 10pm

When you have a sitcom as successful and critically acclaimed as Twenty Twelve, it seems only natural to carry on the saga, even if the event the key characters are plugging – the London Olympics – has come and gone. So the good news is Hugh Bonneville and Jessica Hynes are back for this new BBC-centric saga, and they are joined by Sarah Parish. In the first offering, accusations of anti-Cornish bias are levelled at the BBC, so Ian calls in Siobhan, of PR company Perfect Curve, to advise him.

Meanwhile, producer Lucy Freeman chairs a meeting about pending show Britain's Tastiest Village – a mash-up of Britain's Got Talent, Countryfile and The One Show.

THURSDAY
Turks & Caicos
BBC2, 9pm

Typical, you wait three years for a sequel to the terrific BBC film

Page Eight, and then two come along at once. Starring Bill Nighy as MI5 spy Johnny Worricer, Page Eight was shown to great acclaim in 2011, and now Turks and Caicos picks up where that left off. We find former analyst Worricer hiding out from MI5 in the West Indies, where an encounter with a CIA agent forces him into the company of some dubious American businessmen. As he learns more about the extent of their nefarious schemes, he ends up having to fight for his own survival as he uncovers links to the British prime minister. Christopher Walken, Helena Bonham Carter, Winona Ryder and Ralph Fiennes co-star.

FRIDAY
Sport Relief 2014
BBC1, 7pm

The brains behind this charity extravaganza have pulled off a coup that could turn Comic Relief's Red Nose green with envy – it boasts the return of Only Fools and Horses after a 10-year absence from our screens. Del Boy (David Jason) and Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst) are reuniting for a one-off sketch, but if you're wondering where exactly the sport comes in, they are joined by a special guest star – that's right, David Beckham is heading to Peckham. The rest of the evening's broadcast comes live from Queen Elizabeth Park, with Gary Lineker, David Williams, Claudia Winkleman, Jack Whitehall, Fearne Cotton and Davina McCall (who has hopefully got her breath back after her strenuous fund-raising efforts last month) on presenting duties.



Sport Relief 2014, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

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Bath Panel, Regal Monobloc with
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Mixer, Bath Combination Waste &
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screen and bath

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PROPERTIES BOUGHT FOR CASH

IMMEDIATE DECISION

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

MINING ISSUES

LEASE PROBLEMS

ALL CONSIDERED

CALL NICK NOW TO DISCUSS

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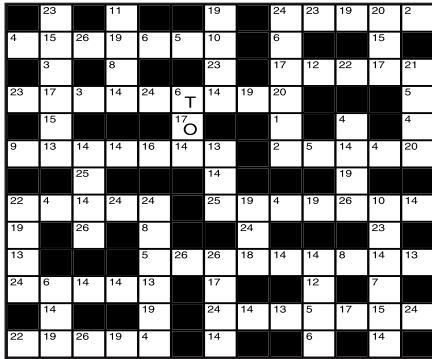
Puzzler

Brain Gym

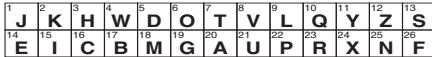
No.264

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

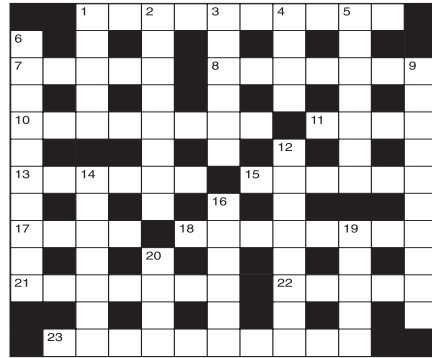
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. The tide at noon makes a noise (10)
7. Scent that starts a romance (5)
8. One still too young to take certain steps (7)
10. It's not a close-up, you can bet on it! (4,4)
11. It's heavenly to play, but there are strings attached (4)
13. A systematic way to mix things up (6)
15. A girl distributes medals (6)
17. Experts break the case (4)
18. Held back, being shy (8)
21. Serious Eastern muddle (7)
22. Thick wooden seat in part (5)
23. Anger badly out of place generally speaking (2,3,5)

Down

1. One way to kill a doctor now, perhaps (5)
2. Strange patterns found in church (8)
3. This idea will get you into no trouble (6)
4. Confidence trickster's aim spells trouble (2-2)
5. Learns nothing about a French city (7)
6. Model tiara turns out to be fitting (6-4)
9. Some steps that have to be suspended (4,6)
12. Bush the French sell with hesitation (8)
14. Many in good time plainly seen (7)
16. Such a surgeon knows his drill (6)
19. Rendezvous put back in time uneventfully (5)
20. Incline to be thin? (4)



Quick Clues:

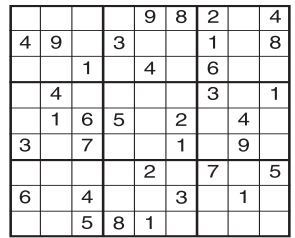
Across

1. Individual (10)
7. Ventilated (5)
8. Exceptional (7)
10. Appalled (8)
11. Arena (4)
13. Use (6)
15. Road (6)
17. Fall (4)
18. Affluent (4-2-2)
21. Certificate (7)
22. Asserts (5)
23. Descriptive proposal (10)

Down

1. Severs (5)
2. Heater (8)
3. Part of the foot (6)
4. Accustomed (4)
5. Stupid (7)
6. Shrewd (4-6)
9. Navigational beacon (10)
12. Resolute (8)
14. Thrive (7)
16. Narrate (6)
19. Signs (5)
20. Pitch (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	1	9	1	8	1	3	4	5
3	8	4	5	9	2	6	7	1	
6	1	5	3	4	7	9	8	2	
8	3	6	7	5	9	1	2	4	
5	4	1	2	6	3	8	9	7	
9	2	7	8	1	4	5	3	6	
4	6	2	1	3	8	7	5	9	
1	9	3	4	7	5	2	6	8	
7	5	8	9	2	6	4	1	3	

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Niggard; 7 Admit; 9 Thy; 10 Ephemeral; 12 Hunger march; 15 Painted lady; 17 Breakneck; 19 Gam; 21 Stale; 22 Log book. Down: 1 Sight; 2 Age; 3 Drop; 4 Idle hands; 5 Finance; 8 Petrol; 11 Turntable; 13 Greens; 14 Narrate; 16 Depot; 18 Chop; 20 Ebb. QUICK - Across: 6 Disable; 7 Delay; 9 Lay; 10 Incessant; 12 Philatelist; 15 Controversy; 17 Flatterer; 19 Sly; 21 Feint; 22 Release. Down: 1 Vital; 2 Ban; 3 Plan; 4 Senseless; 5 Sadness; 8 Settle; 11 Whetstone; 13 Loosen; 14 Boulder; 16 Clasp; 18 Even; 20 Bet.



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PROPERTY AUCTION - 1st April 2014



12, CHAPEL COURT, CHAPEL STREET, PENSNETT

Immaculately presented Second Floor Flat within a lovely location
 (access via Main Entrance rear of St. James' Church Hall)

Private Hallway, large Lounge, well appointed Kitchen and Bathroom, large Double Bedroom. EPC: E53

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.



49 KENELM ROAD, COSELEY, BILSTON

with pleasant outlook towards canal at rear

Three Bedroomed Semi with Gas CH, Through Lounge / Diner, extended Kitchen, Bathroom, Garden at rear, off-road Parking to front. EPC: E52

Guide: £62,000 / £65,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.



16 BATE STREET, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Very smart and spacious Three Bedroomed Bungalow

with big Kitchen, 22ft. Lounge / Diner.
 Modern appointments throughout.
 Garage, attractive Garden. EPC: D57

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.



209 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently located large Three Bed Mid Terraced

Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, Gas CH, uPVC windows. EPC: TBC

Guide: £63,000 / £68,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.



80 BIRCHES BARN ROAD, BRADMORE

In popular residential district, large Three Bed Semi needing some upgrade
 20ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Bathroom. Gas CH.

EPC: TBC

Guide: £80,000 / £85,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m.



19 PROSSER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

End Terraced on large corner plot with big Outbuilding.

Hall, Two Reception, smart Kitchen and Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas CH., Walled Garden. 27ft. Outbuilding. EPC: TBC

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.



LAND AT OLD STAFFORD ROAD, CROSS GREEN, COVEN HEATH
 An attractive plot of Land abutting the Staffs. & Worcs. Canal towpath (Bridge No. 71). Vehicular access and with large Mobile Home - Mains Water and Electricity. Private Drainage.

Approx. 100ft. road frontage

Guide: £38,000 / £43,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th MARCH @ 12.45 p.m.

Please Register for Catalogue

Viewings of all lots at own risk. Please note viewings are at times specified so should you arrive late you may find that your time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the viewing schedule.

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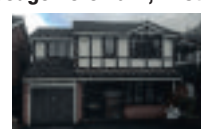
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Three Bedroom Terraced
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Two bedroom terraced house
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Large Two Bedroom Flats
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Three bedroom detached
£550 pcm

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Three bedroom semi
£550 PCM

Shoreham Close Moseley Road, Willenhall



Three bedroom semi-detached
£600 pcm

Portabello Willenhall



Three bedroom semi
£550 pcm

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HOMES AND FINANCIAL

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44 Webster Road, Walsall, WS2 7AW



- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge / Dining Area
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Garden
- Driveway

Semi - Detached

£525 PCM

TO LET

21A Jesson Street, West Bromwich, B70 6PR



- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

First Floor Flat

£450 PCM

TO LET

6 Lower Forster Street, Walsall, WS1 1XA



- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

Mid Terraced House

£475 PCM

TO LET

191 Foden Road, Great Barr, B42 2EH



- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Small Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking On Front
- Enclosed Rear Garden

Semi - Detached House

£550 PCM

TO LET

End Terraced House 7 Slater Street, Darlaston, WS10 8EE



- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£525 PCM

TO LET

127 Balmoral Drive, Short Heath, WV12 5TJ



- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Driveway
- Enclosed Rear Garden

Semi - Detached House

£625 PCM

TO LET

Semi-Detached House 106 Dora Street, Pleck, Walsall, WS2 9AJ



- Two Bedrooms
- Front Room
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed Windows

£475 PCM

TO LET

Modern Semi - Detached 9 Consort Drive, Victoria Mews, WS10 8YF



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden
- Full Gas Central Heating

£525 PCM

TO LET

Mid - Terraced House 11 Cambridge Street, Caldmore, Walsall, WS1 4BZ



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

£450 PCM

TO LET

Flat 11A Liskeard Road, Walsall, WS5 3EY



- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Three Bed Flat

£425 PCM

TO LET

76 Hillary Street, Pleck, Walsall, WS2 9BS



- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Downstairs W.C
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Driveway

Modern Semi - Detached

£595 PCM

TO LET

Modern Mid-Terraced House 15 Consort Drive, Victoria Mews, WS10 8YF



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Part Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£500 PCM



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GRENVILLE CLOSE, BENTLEY
Well Presented One Bed First Floor Flat Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor Living Accommodation, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, D/Glazing, Thermostatic Electric Heating, Garage And A Driveway, Close To Amenities And Transport Links. Great BT!!

£54,995



LINDEN CLOSE, BENTLEY
Two Bed Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Spacious Lounge Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL Investment.

£62,995



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£78,995



STEPHENSON AVE, BEECHDALE
Well Presented Two Bed End Of Terrace Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Rear Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing & Crete Print Driveway.

£84,995



WEBSTER ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Of Terrace Property Situated On A Generous Corner Plot Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage Enclosed Garden. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

£89,500



SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking.

£89,995



REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM
Immaculately Presented One Bed Ground Floor Flat Situated On The Coppice Farm Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing, C/Heating And Driveway.

£92,500



POOLES LANE, SHORT HEATH
A Well Presented Three Bedroom End Of Terrace Having Front Reception Room, Rear Reception Room Being Open Plan Into Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, First Floor Separate W.C., D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Rear Garden And No Upward Chain.

£99,995



BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE
Spacious Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£100,000



BENTLEY WHARF, SHORT HEATH
Modern Ground Floor Apartment On An Exclusive Gated Development Having Entrance Hallway, Dining Room Open Plan Into The Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Oven, Hob, And Washer Dryer, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Spacious Bathroom And Terrace, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Secure Parking, Canal Side Access.

£100,000



HILL ROAD, PORTOBELLO
Well Presented Three Bedroom End Town House Situated On A Corner Plot Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden, Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links.

£104,995



SQUIRES GATE RD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed End Town House Having Modern Fitted Kitchen, Open Plan Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing & Allocated Parking. Ideal FTB.

£109,995



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Floor W.C. Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Parking For Two Vehicles. Ideal FTB Or BTL. No upward chain.

£109,995



WILLENHALL ST, DARLASTON
Modern Three Bed Semi-Detached Property Having Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing & Allocated Parking.

£109,995



ST CHAD'S RD, BILSTON
Two Bedroom Extended Detached Bungalow Having Of Veranda, Entrance Hallway, Living Room, Utility Area, Kitchen, Wet Room And Two Bedrooms. The Property Also Benefits From Being Majorly D/Glazed And Gas C/Heated. NO CHAIN.

£109,995



UPLANDS GROVE, PORTOBELLO
Extended Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Storage Room, Family Bathroom C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Block Paved Driveway.

£119,995



SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Brick Bin Store, Enclosed Rear Garden And Two Allocated Parking Spaces.

£119,995



UPLANDS RD, PORTOBELLO
Extended Two Bedroom Family Bungalow Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Feature 26ft Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Shower, Garage, C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing.

£124,995



SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION
Modern Two Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C., Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms Both With En-Suite, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Separate Garage.

£132,995



UPLANDS AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Basement/Hobby Room, Cellar, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Must View.

£139,995



LONGWOOD RISE, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Three Bed Detached Property Comprising Of Spacious Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner With Integrated Oven And Hob, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£157,995



ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL
Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Cul-De-Sac Location.

£167,995



W-TON RD WEST, BENTLEY
Well Presented Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, P Shaped Conservatory, Three Bedrooms To The First Floor, Bathroom With Separate Steam Shower, Bedroom Four To The Second Floor, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.

£169,995



LIME AVE, BENTLEY
A Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House Having Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Three Generous Bedrooms, Fitted Shower Room, Separate W.C., D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£109,995



OVERDALE DR, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Carport And Driveway. MUST VIEW.

£134,995



WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH
Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Wet Room, D/Glazed, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden. Close To Schools, Amenities And Good Transport Links. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£139,995



HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM
Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995



CANNOCK RD, WILLENHALL
REDUCED!! Well Presented Two Bed Mid Town House Comprising Of Open Plan Living Area/Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking And Separate Garage, Close To Very Popular Local Schools, Amenities And Transport Links. Must View!

£475 PCM



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front And Rear Gardens And Garage In Separate Block. Be Quick For This One!

£495 PCM



MILTON RD, W-TON
Recently Improved Three Bed Terrace Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Rear Room/Plyroom, Three Bedrooms, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Small Walled Garden To The Fore And A Generous Garden To The Rear. Close To New Cross Hospital.

£500 PCM



RUGELEY AV, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Through Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Covered Side Outbuildings, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway, Must View!

£525 PCM



STATION ROAD, RUSHALL
Well Presented Extended Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Utility Room, Separate Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Gated Parking And Garden To The Rear. Viewing Highly Recommended!

£550 PCM



DELAMERE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Fitted Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Double Length Garage, Driveway, Lawned Area To The Front And Rear Garden. Close To Popular Local Schools. Sorry No DSS.

£575 PCM



ALBION RD, WILLENHALL
Four Bed Terrace Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, G-Floor Shower Room, Separate W.C., Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating & Part D/Glazing.

£595 PCM



ENSBURY CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden And Integral Garage. Be Quick For This One!

£625 PCM

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Wednesday 9th
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at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall. WS1 4SA

Lot 1 Follyhouse Lane Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 10am



This traditionally styled semi detached property is located in a popular residential area and is in need of complete modernisation and improvement. The property briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate W.C., Driveway, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating G

GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £75,000

Lot 2 Glebe Street Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March 10.30am



This traditionally styled Victorian terraced house is currently converted into two self contained one bedroom flats, both benefitting from gas fired central heating and is situated in a popular location close to the town centre. Ideal for an investor. Ground Floor: Porch leads into Reception Hall, Flat One (Ground Floor) Lounge, Bedroom, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Bathroom. First Floor: Flat Two: Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bathroom, separate W.C., Outside: Fore and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000

Lot 3 Holden Crescent Walsall

Viewing: 15th March 3pm - 6pm



This traditionally styled semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for an owner occupier or investor. Viewing is recommended to appreciate the spacious well planned accommodation that comprises:- Double glazed Porch leading into Entrance Hall with stairs to first floor off, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Large uPVC Conservatory, Laundry, Three Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Fore & Rear Gardens. EPC Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £55,000 - £65,000

Lot 4 Glascote Road Tamworth

Viewing: 17th & 24th March at 12.45



Having recently been re-fitted, this converted second floor flat would make an ideal purchase for an investor. Conveniently located close to Tamworth centre, the property has gas central heating and double glazing and comprises:- Open plan Lounge/Kitchen Two Bedrooms, Tiled Bathroom. EPC Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £48,000 PLUS

Lot 5 The Malthouse Burton-On-Trent

Viewing: 14th March at 2.45pm



Situated in the centre of Burton on Trent, this first floor flat is situated in The Malthouse conversion and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. The gate complex offers heightened security and internal viewing of the accommodation is recommended. Communal Entrance Hallway, Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Parking Space. EPC Rating C

GUIDE PRICE £47,500 PLUS

Lot 6 Bescot Road Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 11.30am



A substantial three storey villa style residence conveniently situated for local amenities and M56 motorway access providing spacious gas centrally heated family accommodation comprising: Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Front Room/Bedroom, Breakfast Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with separate W.C. First Floor: Three Bedrooms, En-Suite Bathroom. Second Floor: Guest W.C. Three Further Bedrooms. Outside: Off street parking and rear garden. EPC Rating F

GUIDE PRICE £115,000 PLUS

Lot 7 Beven Lee Road Cannock

Viewing: Saturdays 11am - 12pm



This freehold Convenience Store and Off Licence is situated on a popular established housing estate with new build properties close by. With 318sq ft of Retail space the property comes with some fixtures and fittings and comprises:- Shop with display window with roller shutters, Counter, display fridge, Cooler, refrigerator and various racks and shelving, Store Room and W.C.

GUIDE PRICE £30,000 - £40,000

Lot 8 West Bromwich Road Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 11am



This traditionally styled Victorian end terrace residence offers well appointed spacious gas centrally heated and part double glazed accommodation which would make an ideal purchase for a family. The property benefits from a large workshop/garage accessed from a driveway directly onto Weston Street, there is the possibility that this could be converted into a residential dwelling (subject to planning). Lounge, Dining Room, Well Equipped Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden, Enclosed Rear Garden, Large Garage/Workshop. EPC Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £100,000 - £110,000

Lot 9 Wentworth Court Erdington

Viewing: Strictly by Appointment



A one double bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular location with good access to Birmingham Town Centre. Communal Hallway with security entry intercom system, Hallway, door into private Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Communal Gardens, Communal Parking

GUIDE PRICE £35,000 - £45,000

Lot 9a Land adjacent to Amalfi, Cartersfield Lane Stnall

Viewing: Strictly by Appointment



A freehold building plot, with Outline Planning (Ref 11/01387/OUT) for the erection of a two storey three bedroom dwelling. Situated close the village centre of Stnall.

GUIDE PRICE £45,000 - £55,000

Lot 10 Dorington Road Perry Barr

Viewing: 13th & 20th March at 12pm



This traditionally styled short Leasehold semi detached property is situated in a popular location just off Rocky Lane. Set back behind a small foregarden and with a private rear garden the property, for which cash offers are invited is in need of some modernisation but does have some double glazing and central heating. The property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Fore and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE £70,000 - £80,000

Lot 11 Bloxwich Road Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 12.45pm



This ground floor retail shop has until recently been trading as a hairdresser salon and beauty parlour. The ground floor accommodation, which has been recently modernised, could be converted to residential (subject to necessary planning). Being sold with some fixtures and fittings the property would suit a hairdressing business or an investor. Salon with back wash basin, hood dryer, two styling chairs and inset mirrors, Three treatment Rooms, Kitchen.

GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £50,000

Lot 12 Canterbury Close Erdington

Viewing: 19th & 26th March at 2pm



This modern mid town house is situated on a popular new development but has suffered severe fire damage and is therefore in need of a complete refit and cash offers are invited. Lending itself to a builder or investor the property comprises:- Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden.

GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £75,000

Lot 13 Essex Street Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 1.15pm



This ideal investment opportunity consists of a traditionally styled Victorian mid terrace residence that benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing. Located in the North of Walsall the property for which cash offers are invited the due to the proximity of a mine shaft comprises:- Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Lobby, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Small Foregarden, Yard and Rear Garden. EPC Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £50,000 PLUS

Lot 14 Stafford Street Walsall

Viewing: Strictly by Appointment



A double fronted retail shop with ancillary accommodation, formerly a self contained flat above together with large storage yard lending itself to a multitude of uses. Situated in a prime location on the outskirts of Walsall town centre the property comprises: Retail Shop with Kitchen off, W.C and stairs off, Store Room, First Floor - Benefitting from gas fired central heating - Stairs, Landing off which access is gained to Room 1 with window to front, Room window to front, Kitchen with window and fire escape, Bathroom with bath and wash hand basin, Separate W.C with central heating boiler (not tested)

GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £90,000

Lot 15 Daisybank Crescent Walsall

Viewing: 15th & 20th March at 12pm



A delightful, well maintained traditional semi detached house in this sought after and convenient location offering attractive living accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing the property includes: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, three Bedrooms, refitted Bathroom, compact rear garden, Garage and wide frontage with Parking. EPC Band D

GUIDE PRICE £135,000 PLUS

Lot 16 Normanton Tower Erdington

Viewing: 17th March 11.30am



A two bedroomed flat situated on the 8th floor of a tower block that is ideally located for both Erdington and Wyde Green and close to public transport. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating (both where specified) the property, for which cash offers are invited has a secure entrance and communal lift or staircase. The property comprises: Hallway, Lounge with Balcony, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. EPC Rating C

GUIDE PRICE £10,000 - £20,000

Lot 17 Dulwich Road Kingstanding

Viewing: 17th & 24th March at 11.30am



Traditionally styled end of terrace with central heating and some double glazing in need of complete modernisation and making an ideal opportunity for an investor. Situated in a convenient location the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens

GUIDE PRICE £50,000 - £60,000



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Residential Sales Lettings Property Management

Millers Walk Pelsall



- Exceptional Detached Family Residence
- Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- Breakfast Kitchen & Conservatory

- Ground Floor Guest Wc & Utility Room
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Driveway & Double Width Garage, Two Large Reception Rooms & Study

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£264,950**

Millers Walk Walsall



- Five Bedroom Detached Family Residence
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility Room
- Well Presented Accommodation
- Ground Floor Guest Wc

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£250,000**

Wood Common Grange Pelsall



- Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Conservatory
- Cottage Style Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom

- First Floor Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing As Specified, Utility Room & Guest Cloakroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£245,000**

Ivanhoe Road Great Barr



- Three Bedroom Detached Property
- Through Lounge & Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate
- Ground Floor Wet Room

- Double Glazing As Stated
- Wall Mounted Electric Heating
- Good Size Rear Garden, First Floor Bathroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£176,500**

Pommel Close Walsall



- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- L-Shaped Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate
- Double Glazed As Stated

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£137,500**

Brockhurst Crescent Walsall



- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Contemporary Style Kitchen
- Solar Panels To Roof
- Double Glazing As Stated

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**

Water Reed Grove Walsall



- Contemporary Style End Town House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Modern Kitchen

- Ground Floor Guest Wc
- Double Glazing As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System, First Floor Bathroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: **£124,950**

Broad Lane South Wolverhampton



- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate
- EPC Rating E, Bathroom

Viewing:

£279,950

Bird End West Bromwich



- Sought After Location
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge And Dining Room
- Energy Rating TBC, Double Glazed Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND:

£265,000

Hallam Street West Bromwich



- Delightful Semi Detached Property
- Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Energy Rating E, Superb Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:

£150,000

Primley Avenue Walsall



- Extended End Terrace Property
- Four Bedrooms & Loft Room
- Through Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden, Sitting Room & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:

£150,000

Castle Road Tipton



- traditional detached bungalow
- sought after location
- double glazing
- 2 bedrooms, epc F

OFFERS AROUND:

£127,950

- Immediate Sale Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Large Reception Rooms
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Extended Contemporary

OFFERS AROUND:

£127,500

King Charles Avenue Walsall



- Newly Built Semi Detached Property
- Now Available For Viewing
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate, Contemporary

Viewing:

£120,000

Rollers Way Tipton

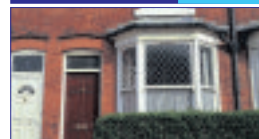


- Immaculate Modern End Terrace
- Upvc double glazing - gas central heating
- NHBC guarantee
- 2 bedrooms, epc B

OFFERS AROUND:

£117,500

Hillary Street Walsall



- Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Further Double Bedroom / Loft Room
- Two Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND:

£115,000

206 Old Birchills Walsall



- Grade II Listed Loch Cottage
- Recently Refurbished
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC Rating: D, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:

£110,000

Jean Drive Tipton



- Modern semi detached
- Upvc double glazing - gas central heating
- Sought after location
- 2 bedrooms, side garage

OFFERS AROUND:

£109,950

Memorial Close Willenhall

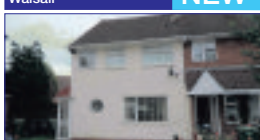


- 2 Bedroom Modern Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- , Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND:

£105,000

Davy Road Walsall



- End Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Sitting Room
- Internal Inspection Essential, Kitchen With Break-

Viewing:

£95,000

Isaac Walton Place West Bromwich



- End terrace
- Upvc double glazing - gas central heating
- No upward chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc D

OFFERS AROUND:

£79,950

Pimpel Drive Walsall



- One Bedroom House
- Ideal Investment
- First Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Parking,

Viewing:

£76,950

Camborne Road Walsall



- Top Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- , Bathroom With White Suite

OFFERS AROUND:

£67,500

Manifold Way Wednesbury



- A 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND:

£66,950

Thunderbolt Way Tipton



- modern purpose built second floor apartment
- upvc double glazing - electric heating
- no upward chain
- 2 bedrooms, epc C

OFFERS AROUND:

£65,000

Purcell Road Wolverhampton



- 2 Bedroom ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- , Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:

£59,950

Purcell Road Wolverhampton



- 2 Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- , Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:

£59,950

Lilly Street West Bromwich



- Studio Flat
- First Floor
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal Investment

OFFERS AROUND:

£30,000

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE
ADDRESS: 34 Park Avenue Willenhall West Midlands WV11 3DF
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £84,250. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place, EPC Rating: F.

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Silvertrees Road Tipton



- Four Bedroom Modern Detached
- Nicely Fitted Kitchen
- Separate Lounge & Dining Area
- EPC Rating D

£189,950

Beauchamp Avenue Handsworth



- Semi Detached Three Bedroom Home
- Spacious Ground Floor Living Area
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC Rating D

£187,500

St Augustus Close West Bromwich



- Detached Four Bedroom Residence
- Undisturbed views of Sandwell Valley Park
- Exceptional Family Living Areas
- EPC Rating D

£280,000

Anchor Crescent Hockley



- Terraced Four Bedroom Town House
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Close Proximity Of Birmingham City Centre
- EPC Rating C

£165,000

Pennycricket Lane Oldbury



- Newly Refurbished Two Bed Terrace Home
- Newly Fitted Kitchen With Built In Appliances
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating C

£65,000

Greenwood Avenue Oldbury



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Driveway to fit up to two cars
- New modern kitchen
- EPC Rating D

£107,950

Wiltshire Way West Bromwich



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Living Room & Dining Area
- Front Driveway & Rear Garden
- EPC Rating D

£107,950

Navigation Way Hockley



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Townhouse
- Ground Floor Kitchen and Diner
- Garage and Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£170,000

Abbey Road Warley Woods



- Fantastic Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Modern Kitchen
- Featured Original Brick Fire Place
- EPC Rating D

£169,950

Rachael Gardens Park Hill



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Extended Reception Room
- Garage and Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£159,950

Warwick Gardens Tividale



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Corner Plot Located in Cul De Sac
- Impressive Open Plan Kitchen
- EPC Rating TBC

£125,000

Slade Road Halesowen



- Three Bedroom Terraced Residence
- Extremely Spacious Living Quarters
- Extended Kitchen and Breakfast Bar
- EPC Rating: D

£124,950

Stone Street Oldbury



- Top Floor Two Bedroom Apartment
- Very Well Presented
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- EPC Rating: C

£119,950

Ashwin Road Handsworth



- Mid Terraced Three Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- EPC Rating - TBC

£99,950

Dagger Lane West Bromwich



- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
- Two Lovely Reception Rooms
- Extended Fully Equipped Kitchen
- EPC Rating D

£249,950

Thorncroft Way Walsall



- Impressive Detached Four Bedroom Home
- Well Appointed Ground Floor Living Areas
- Garage and Driveway
- EPC Rating C

£220,000

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Dudley Road East Tividale



- New Build Detached Four Bedroom
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Two Good sized Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating C

£169,950

Landswood Road Oldbury



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Residence
- Well Appointed Ground Floor Living Areas
- Conservatory And Garage To Rear
- EPC Rating D

£149,500

Hintlesham Avenue Harborne



- Detached Four Bedroom Residence
- Impressive Space
- Four Double Bedrooms
- EPC Rating C

£1695 + Fees Apply

Birchwoods Bartley Green



- Beautiful Three Bedroom Detached House
- Private Driveway
- Garage To Side of House
- EPC Rating D

£700 + Fees Apply

Terrace Street Wednesbury



- Three Bedroom semi-detached home
- Large extended modern kitchen
- Separate Shower and Jacuzzi
- Fabulous rear and front garden

£600 + fees apply

St Michaels Way Tipton



- Semi Detached Three Bedroom Property
- Driveway with Garage and front lawn
- Three good-sized bedrooms
- Spacious landscaped garden

£595 + Fees Apply

Addington Way Tividale



- Modern Build Three Bedroom House
- Modern Kitchen/Diner
- Landscaped Enclosed Rear Garden
- EPC Rating C

£560 + Fees Apply

Apollo Road Oldbury



- Two Bedroom Terraced Residence
- Extended To The Rear
- Elongated Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms

£500 + Fees Apply

Crownmeadow Drive Tipton



- Secluded Three Bedroom semi-detached
- Fully fitted kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- Beautiful Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC Rating B

£475 + Fees Apply

Caversham Place Sutton Coldfield



- Beautiful Three Bedroom Town House
- Magnificent Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Situated Over Four Floors
- EPC Rating C

£1100 + Fees Apply

Sandwell Road Handsworth Wood



- Six Bedroom Town House
- Beautiful Maintained Rear Garden
- CCTV System
- EPC Rating C

£895 + Fees Apply

Well Street City Centre



- Brand New Two Bedroom Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Attention to Detail Fixtures and Fittings
- Top Floor Apartment (Grd)

£850 + Fees Apply

Selwyn Road Edgbaston



- Three Bedroom Residence
- Dining and Living Room
- Garage and Driveway
- EPC Rating F

£795 + Fees Apply

Inverclyde Road Handsworth



- Attractive Four Bedroom Semi Detached
- Large Kitchen and Diner
- Large Rear Garden
- EPC Rating: E

£725 + Fees Apply

Tividale Street Tividale



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
- Spacious lounge with French Doors
- Fitted Modern kitchen
- Driveway and Front Porch Area

£500 + Fees Apply

Princes Road Tividale



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Residence
- Large Kitchen Area
- Three Double Bedrooms
- EPC Rating D

£550 + Fees Apply

Greenly Road Wolverhampton



- Two/Three Bedroom Bungalow
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Partly Furnished Property

£525 + Fees Apply

Greets Green Rd WBrom



- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced Residence
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Elongated Rear Garden
- Neutrally Decorated Throughout

£475 + Fees Apply

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Dorset Road Wednesbury



- Three Bedroom Terraced Residence
- Modern Kitchen/Diner
- Landscaped Rear Garden
- Driveway and Front Porch Area

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Birmingham Road Oldbury



- Wonderful Two Bedroom Flat
- Spacious Open Plan Kitchen/Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off road parking

£450 + Fees Apply

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NEW **NEW INSTRUCTION** **EPC D**



**THOMPSON STREET
THE MANOR**

- Superb Modern Detached
- Much Improved
- Hall with Guests WC
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- 4 Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens
- Driveway
- Garage

£205,000

MANAGER'S CHOICE **EPC E**



**HILTON ROAD
NEW INVENTION**

- Well presented detached
- Private driveway location
- Hall
- Spacious lounge
- Stunning family room/kitchen
- Utility & Wc
- 3 excellent double bedrooms
- Luxury family bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double glazing
- Superb landscaped gardens
- Garage & Drive
- Energy Rating E

£179,950 offers over

NEW **PROPERTY OF THE WEEK** **EPC B**



**HOUGH WAY
ESSINGTON**

- First Floor Apartment
- Impressively Appointed
- Premier Cul-De-Sac Location
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Viewing Highly Recommended
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space
- No Chain Available
- Energy rating TBC

£114,000

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<p>NEW EPC D</p>  <p>CANNOCK ROAD WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Traditional Detached Five Double Bedrooms Reception Hall with Guests WC Three Reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen & Utility Luxury Re-Fitted Bathroom Double Glazing & GCH Delightful Rear Gardens Large Driveway <p>£325,000</p>	<p>NO CHAIN EPC C</p>  <p>YALE ROAD WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superior Detached No Chain Large Lounge Dining Room Impressive Breakfast Kitchen Four Bedrooms 2 En-Suites • Family Bathroom Double Glazing Gas Central Heating Garage • Driveway • Rear Gardens <p>£247,950</p>	<p>EPC C</p>  <p>PRINCETHORPE ROAD WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Detached Property 3 bedrooms En-suite & Bathroom Lounge & Dining room Kitchen Conservatory Gas CH • Double Glazing Garage, Drive Gardens <p>£194,950</p>	<p>REDUCED EPC D</p>  <p>STROUD AVENUE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superb Modern style semi detached Impressive refitted kitchen Luxury refitted bathroom Double glazing Garage and driveway Spacious lounge Three excellent bedrooms Gas central heating system Rear garden No chain <p>£139,950</p>	<p>EPC C</p>  <p>YALE ROAD WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superb Modern Detached Spacious Lounge, Dining Area Sitting Room/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Three Bedrooms • Bathroom En-Suite Shower Room Double Glazing • Gas CH Rear Gardens Driveway to the Fore <p>£169,000</p>	<p>EPC E</p>  <p>LUCKNOW ROAD WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern style link detached Three good size bedrooms Refitted bathroom Spacious lounge • Dining room Impressive conservatory Refitted kitchen • Double glazing Gas central heating Superb well established garden Garage and driveway <p>£147,950</p>	<p>EPC D</p>  <p>BALMORAL DRIVE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional semi detached property Popular location Lounge and dining room Kitchen and utility 3 bedrooms (currently used as 2) Bathroom • Gas CH Garage and driveway Majority double glazing Delightful landscaped rear garden <p>£139,950</p>	
<p>NEW EPC TBC</p>  <p>KEASDEN GRIVE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Style Semi Detached Three Bedrooms Lounge • Dining Room Newly Fitted Kitchen Bathroom Double Glazing Gas Central Heating Garage • Long Driveway Rear Gardens No Chain <p>£138,000</p>	<p>NEW EPC: TBC</p>  <p>NEVIS GROVE COPPICE FARM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Semi Detached No Chain Spacious Lounge Dining Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms Bathroom Double Glazing Driveway Rear Garden <p>£122,000</p>	<p>EPC D</p>  <p>MEMORIAL CLOSE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Style Semi Detached Hall Lounge Dining Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms Re-Fitted Bathroom Driveway Front & Rear Gardens Gas Central Heating System <p>£120,000</p>	<p>NO CHAIN EPC C</p>  <p>RAVENSBORNE GROVE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern style mid terrace No Chain Lounge Dining kitchen Two bedrooms • Bathroom Gas central heating Popular cul-de-sac location Allocated parking space Rear garden <p>£99,950</p>	<p>EPC D</p>  <p>LAKESEIDE CLOSE WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superb Modern Style Mid Terrace Spacious Lounge Conservatory Fitted Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms Re-fitted Shower Room Double Glazing Rear Gardens Allocated Parking Space <p>£99,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN EPC D</p>  <p>MOORE ROAD BEACON ESTATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional style semi detached Popular estate Lounge and dining room Kitchen and lobby with wc Two double bedrooms Shower room Double glazing Gas central heating Rear gardens No chain <p>£95,000</p>	<p>NEW EPC E</p>  <p>BIRMINGHAM STREET WILLENHALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period Mid Terrace No Chain Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Two Bedrooms First Floor Bathroom Gas Central Heating Rear Gardens <p>£79,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN EPC F</p>  <p>RICHARDS STREET DARLASTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period semi detached property Lounge and dining room Refitted kitchen Ground floor wc Two double bedrooms Bathroom Double glazing Gas central heating Large rear garden No chain <p>£75,000</p>

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Designers go to town with Chevrolet's supermini

On paper the Chevrolet Aveo certainly seems as if the designers, engineers and marketing people have ticked all the right boxes.

There's a more distinctive look, a more efficient range of engines which at last includes some properly frugal diesel options and the usual emphasis on high spec and value pricing to enable the car to better compete against fellow budget brands like Skoda, Kia and Hyundai.

If you're a typical Aveo buyer, then you probably won't care very much what goes on under the bonnet or how adept your car will be at tackling your favourite twisty B road. In fact, you probably won't have a favourite twisty B road. So you won't care that there are no really performance-minded engines in the range, that the steering is a little light and that bodyroll is a little more pronounced than you'll find in something more Fiesta-like.

You'll be more interested instead in stuff that's of greater importance every day – namely levels of ride and refinement which are as good as anything in the class, including small cars that are a great deal more expensive than this one.

Partly that's because under the skin, this car has a very solid, taut chassis indeed, underpinnings originally developed for the fourth generation Vauxhall Corsa but which this Chevrolet managed to get hold of first.

In terms of refinement though, the only caveat I have to add concerns the 86PS petrol 1.2 which the majority of buyers of this model tend to choose.

Though its performance figures – rest to 60mph in 13.6 seconds on the way to 107mph – look alright, just 115Nm of torque, of pulling power, demands you work the engine pretty hard to achieve reasonably rapid progress. And that'll prove a stern test of the considerable efforts the designers have put in to keep noise levels down in this model, efforts which include everything from special damping mats to thicker windscreen glass and a felt blanket lining the underside of the bonnet.

Noticeable

The benefits of all this are much more noticeable in the other petrol engine on offer, a 100PS 1.4, especially if you mate it to the necessarily relaxed progress that's conditional if you order this car with a sprint-sapping six-speed Hydra-Matic auto gearbox.

There are two diesel engines, finally put on offer to Aveo customers in this second generation guise. Both VCDi units are 1.3-litres in size, with a choice of either 75PS or 95PS outputs.

The pokier of the two manages 60mph in 12.6 seconds, a second and a half quicker than its stablemate, a figure you can reduce further to 11.7 seconds by opting for a more frugally-focused 'Eco' version.

Chevrolet says it's a bit fed up with small cars being cute and cuddly, the intention instead with this car being to create something bolder, more striking and with a dose of attitude. Hence a set of progressive, raked bodylines, pronounced wheelarches and, most notably, the apparently motorcycle-inspired design theme that crops up all around the car.

Lifting the tailgate reveals a 290-litre boot within spitting distance of that of a rival Fiesta in size and practically shaped, provided you can lift your luggage over the rather pronounced lip that sits proud above the rear bumper.

Pushing forward the 60:40 split-folding rear seats reveals a class-competitive 653 litres, though unfortunately, the area provided isn't quite flat.

To take a seat in the back, you first need to locate the rear door pull handles, cleverly concealed in the upper section of the door in a largely unsuccessful attempt to give this five-door-only design a coupe-like look.

Once inside, you've the usual supermini standard – comfortable space with decent headroom for two adults or three children.

Safety-wise, the car has a 5 star Euro NCAP rating. That means single-stage airbags for driver and front passenger, plus roof-rail airbags and side impact airbags. The roof can withstand forces more than four times this car's weight.



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Drivetime

Leon gets estate version

By Graham Breeze

Why it's taken SEAT so long to introduce an estate version of the popular Leon range is anyone's guess.

But now they have and the company has done a great job, managing to keep the highly impressive hatchback's style and handling in place.

It's called a Sports Tourer – but it is an estate in my book – and the third bodystyle in the range, joining the five-door hatch and three-door Sport Coupe (SC).

The line-up is the same as the five-door too with S, SE and FR trim levels, and power coming from a selection of turbocharged petrol and diesel engines.

My pick is the SE 1.6TDI 105PS version with a starting price of £19,495, average fuel consumption figures of an amazing 74.3mpg and CO2 emissions of only 99g/km.

Surprisingly you still get a top speed of 119mph from this model though getting to 62mph will take you over 11 seconds.

So SEAT haven't let anyone down with the performance side and certainly haven't with the additional space.

Boot space is particularly impressive and while the Leon is not top of the class it does command a medal place with an impressive moveable boot floor, easy folding rear seats and even a folding front passenger seat, just in case you need to carry the odd coffin.

The Leon shares the same chassis as Audi A3 and VW Golf, so solid handling is guaranteed, with a tight ride and responsive steering, though the ride is quite firm and was commented on by rear seat passengers.

Inside this Leon is a genuine five seater with leg and head room to spare with the fascia taken from the earlier models. Like all SEAT's that means practical and simple.

The touch-screen control centre is well positioned and simple to operate, which is a real bonus when driving different cars each week. Often



the week has gone by the time I have mastered the controls. Why can't they all be standard?

There's the same safety levels as on the rest of the range. That means seven airbags, stability control, emergency brake assist and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

You get active front head restraints to minimise whiplash, Isofix child-seat mounting points, remote central locking and an alarm which has helped SEAT record the maximum five stars in Euro NCAP crash tests.

The test car came complete with LED headlamps and DAB digital radio, heated front seats, heated front washers, rain sensing wipers, light sensors and electric folding door mirrors.

I was impressed by the automatic light dipping system, which must be a big must for all manufacturers, and the driver pack, which includes lane assist.

You get Bluetooth, USB input, air-con, colour touch-screen, wheel-mounted audio controls and electric front windows, so you get quite a bit for your money. It also had 17" alloys and tinted rear windows, all of which totalled £3,330 and helped the price up to £22,825.

The big competition will probably come from Skoda and Golf and SEAT is the cheaper option.

I've become a bit of a SEAT fan over the years and I can't say that I'm anything but impressed by this latest addition.

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Raising bar with a more streamlined Sport model

Land Rover again raises the premium SUV bar with its latest offering – the V8 diesel-powered Range Rover Sport, writes Iain Dooley.

It can't have escaped you that Land Rover is doing rather well at the moment. Although only one half of the Jaguar-Land Rover equation, the 4x4 side of the business is selling the lion's share of the product.

The compact entry-level Evoque SUV burst onto the scene with all the fanfare and adoration of a major celebrity, and the trickle down effect – or should that be trickle up – had been felt across the firm's recently refreshed range.

One obvious recipient of the Evoque's magic has been the second generation Range Rover Sport. Visual similarities to the rock star of the range are no coincidence, while Land Rover's continued focus on reducing weight and boosting the level of technology in its cars continues with this more streamlined Sport.

Lighter, more economical and offering a more engaging on-road driving experience than the car it replaces, alongside Land Rover's long established off-road credentials, this new generation Sport also boasts more cabin space plus the option of a family-friendly third row of seats.

Just like the latest Range Rover, the Sport adopts its maker's next-gen Terrain Response system, which includes an auto mode clever enough to sense changes in terrain and change the engine, gearbox and suspension settings accordingly.

Although endowed with a perfectly good range of engines – six-cylinder diesel and eight-pot supercharged petrol units – the final piece of the performance jigsaw has now slotted into place.

Hot

If petrol isn't your thing but you still want to feel a shove in your back, there's now a hot diesel option in the form of a 4.4-litre V8, 334 horsepower lump. On paper, consumption and emission rise slightly as you'd expect, but the trade-off is a welcome increased turn of speed and more mid-range grunt.

With a predictable embarrassment of riches in both power and torque departments, this hot V8 diesel Sport is the consummate all-rounder. Ample low down torque is complemented by superb throttle sensitivity, making it ideal not just for inching over treacherous obstacles but also breezing past slower traffic on wide, sweeping A-roads.

Despite the potential for higher corner entry speeds when in diesel V8 guise, bodyroll is expertly kept in check and the Sport's ride is rarely compromised by its large but stylish alloy wheels. For a car destined to spend much of its time on the road, this should be music to any prospective owner's ears.

One thing that hasn't changed with the inclusion of a more powerful diesel motor, is the Sport's living quarters. The cabin remains a plush and inviting environment for occupants fore and aft, while the fascia's clean, simple lines put the cluttered driving environments of many rivals to shame.

In V8 diesel guise, the Range Rover Sport is as close to a no-compromise luxury SUV for the real world as you can get. It might look stately but its footprint remains a manageable one, while its expertly honed driving dynamics allow you to fully exploit the diesel V8's welcome extra power with supreme confidence.

TESTED

Model: Range Rover Sport SDV8 Autobiography Dynamic, from £81,550 on the road.

Engine: 4.4-litre V8 diesel unit developing 334bhp.

Transmission: 8-speed automatic transmission as standard, driving all four wheels.

Performance: Maximum speed 140mph, 0-62mph 6.9 seconds.

Economy: 32.5mpg.

CO2 Rating: 229g/km.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.7 VCDi: Urban 41.5, Extra-Urban 61.4, Combined 52.3, CO2 125 g/km; Spark 1.2 LTZ (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 68.9, Combined 56.5, CO2 118 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined – 43.4-62.7, CO2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze 1.7 VCDi Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £425, and a Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings based on a (firm and engine) Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, BNL TSB or GMAC PD BDR 6666. CarHPI, CFTS TFL. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.

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nurse, looking for someone to
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blonde, varied interests, enjoys
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LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive,
outgoing, likes walks, dogs,
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ZOE 25 long haired sensual
female, very naughty,
broadminded and open,
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life, 60ish. Text Only Mailbox
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N/S, seeks lady, 35-45 for
friendship and who knows. Tel
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average looks/build, loving,
caring, understanding, seeks
female to share good times
with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
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swimming, ice skating, seeks
swial female with similar
interests. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 410737

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tall, dark male, easy going,
GSOH, seeking female with
GSOH for fun, friendship and
relationship. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 410703

PAUL 68, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine,
enjoys most things, likes a
laugh, seeking similar female
for friendship, maybe more. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
410655

JOSEPH attractive Asian
male, seeking attractive,
genuine female, 38-50 for
friendship and companionship.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 410267

5FT 10ins male, brown hair,
blue eyes, seeks female, 40
plus for daytime fun. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No:
410589

LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking
some one for fun and
friendship. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 410375

SLIM attractive man, tired of
lonely nights, seeks genuine
lady for friendship and
evenings out. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 410281

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder,
likes kick boxing, daughter,
seeking female, 30-40 for love.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 410245

MALE 55, 5ft 10ins, seeks lady
30-58 for cosy nights in,
holidays, nights out, maybe
more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 410207

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark
hair, half Italian, seeks busty,
classy lady, 55 plus for discreet
adult fun. Where is my Sophia
Loren? Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 410529

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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businesses for sale

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6 Property

houses for sale

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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I will rent your property from you for 5 - 10 years.
GUARANTEED RENT.
 I will also look after the maintenance of the property.

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TWO ONE BED modernised flats to let in Featherstone. All inquiries Call 07885 832793.

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WILLENHALL AND WALSALL 3-bed houses, GCH, DG. DSS considered. 07983 965589.

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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CITROEN C2 1.1 LX, 05 Plate, blue, long MOT and tax, excellent condition. £1,495. Telephone 07850 090075.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 auto, very, very low mileage, only 20,000 genuine miles, 2004, drives like new, immaculate inside and out, long MOT and tax, any trial. £2,495 ono. 07808 470751.

FORD KA, 2009, 26,900 Miles. Red, abs, air bag, fsh, long MOT, pas, tax. 1 Lady owner. £5,000 ono. 07706506804

MAZDA MX5 soft top, 04 reg, 64,000 miles, MOT, Good condition. £3,150 ono. 07984 043263.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 05, 3Dr, 47,000 miles, silver, 2004, drives like new, immaculate inside and out, long MOT, pas, tax. 1 Lady owner. £5,000 ono. 07706506804

SEAT LEON 2007, 73,600 Miles, Silver, MOT, metallic paint, tax, alloys, CD, £5,250.00 ono. 07415 411305

EXCELLENT CONDITION

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 2.0 XT4, 5 door automatic, 04 reg, black, service history, full leather trim, sun roof, climate control, alloys.

81,000 miles, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax.
 Excellent condition inside / out.
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 3Dr, 2007 (07 plate), silver, 60K, 2 owners, MOT Jan 15, SH, tax Apr.

Circumstances forces sale.
£2,450 ono.
01785 663899, 07517 385986.

VAUXHALL CORSA 14SE, 5dr, 2012, 13,000 mileage, very good condition on trades, sale due to ill health. £6,850 ono. 0121 5203166.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI
 54 reg, 39,000 miles, dark turquoise, MOT, tax.
£2,200 ono.
01902 653610.

cars under £1500

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 2003, 145K, green, alarm, cruise control, sunroof, alloys, stereo, leather interior, 6 speed, towbar, MOT Feb 2015.
£1,150
07825 150461.

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 that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1 Desire, 2003, MOT Sept, tax August. CL, pas, E/F/VN, sunroof, metred, 95K. £895. 07583 343105.

FORD FOCUS LXTDI 2003, 116K, Black, electric windows, long MOT, central locking, diesel, £1,500.00 ono. 07984 651404.

FORD FOCUS TDCI, 2003, Turbo diesel, very reliable, 12 months MOT, 6 months Tax, Air con, alloys, silver. £1,300. 07757 537254.

MAZDA DEMIU 1.3, 2001, MOT/tax Oct, excellent condition, 5dr, 2 keys, 58,000 miles, £895 ono. 07971 112839, 01922 869748.

RENAULT LAGUNA Estate Diesel, 02 reg in good condition. £1,000 ono. 07855 372939.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2004 X reg. 5dr, 1.2, 16V, electric, 50th Jan MOT, good condition, £425 ono. 07984 177755 or 07925 872525.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2004, 83,000 Miles, Blue, electric windows, MOT, central locking, pas, CD, £550.00 ono. 07415 411305

VAUXHALL VECTRA LS 1.8 Petrol auto, 51 reg, 82K, only two owners. Tax Oct 14, MOT 11/14, £350 ono. P/lex ava. Call: 07543 481453 T.

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 54 Fiat Punto
 3-dr Hatch, Silver £1,250

03 Renault Clio Expression
 3-dr Hatch, Silver 1149cc £1,250

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commercial vehicles

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 LWB, TD, 2400 diesel, X reg, 149,000 miles, 2 owners, 12 months MOT, £1,200.
 Telephone 01922 449189 or 07833 547054.

VOLKSWAGEN CADDY SDI, 2002, White, Tax and Mot, pas, diesel, Alloy wheels, £950.00 ono. 07415 411305

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1st TWO LESSONS £10 EACH £16 per hour after. Block bookings and intensive course. Please Call: 07986 552131.

£9 EACH FOR FIRST 2 Lessons, £18 a lesson after. Pass quick on manual ex BSM. 07957 254425. Wednesbury surrounding areas.

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 CBT to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

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spares/parts

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public & legal notices

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
 The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.
 Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online **www.walsall.gov.uk/planning**
 Representations can be made online, email: **planningservices@walsall.gov.uk** or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.
 Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Office. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

14/0033/FL
 JD Welersworth PLC
 FOR: Change of use of public highway to form two external seating areas related to public house on Darwall Street either side of main entrance.
 AT: THE IMPERIAL, DARWALL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1DA

14/0278/FL & 14/0282/AD
 Specavers Opticians
 For: Change of colour to shopfront and roller shutters and installation of four air conditioning units at first floor level on rear elevation and installation of replacement internally illuminated fascia sign and internally illuminated projection sign.
 AT: 135 HIGH STREET, WALSALL, WS3 3LE

14/0288/FL
 Countryside Estate Agents
 For: Change of Use to A2
 AT: 130B Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1SY

14/0248/FL
 Walsall Housing Group
 FOR: Installation of externally applied wall insulation with render and replacement of windows and infilling of the balconies
 AT: 1-12 AND 15-42 WAREWELL CLOSE, WALSALL, WS1 2AE

10 Personals

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

personal

sports clubs

FREE FOOTBALL COACHING SESSIONS
 For girls in year 7 to year 11 of any ability, delivered by Wyrley Juniors FC, level 2 coach as part of FA Vauxhall Mash Initiative.

Cheslyn Hay astro turf, Mondays 4 till 5pm with effect from February 10.
Contact Keith on 07836 202764.
 Places also available at Wyrley JFC Girls Academy for Y2 to Y4.

CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802 3093 for details.

XTASIA SWINGERS CLUB
 West Bromwich. **www.xtasia.co.uk** for full information. 07850 236053.

FREE FOOTBALL COACHING SESSIONS
 For girls in year 7 to year 11 of any ability, delivered by Wyrley Juniors FC, level 2 coach as part of FA Vauxhall Mash Initiative.

Cheslyn Hay astro turf, Mondays 4 till 5pm with effect from February 10.
Contact Keith on 07836 202764.
 Places also available at Wyrley JFC Girls Academy for Y2 to Y4.

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01902 317878

ARE YOU A SLIM, ATTRACTIVE WOMAN
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Classified Ads

star★extraTRAVEL

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 Selected weekend departures
Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

SPORT

Peace is to tackle tough Mel questions

WOULD sacking Pepe Mel this week be unfair? Certainly.

Would it be embarrassing for Albion? Most definitely.

Yet as the club prepare for the most significant month in their recent history, would it be surprising if Jeremy Peace were not keeping all options open? Absolutely.

Because if one final roll of the managerial dice can improve the Baggies' chances of staying in the Premier League, that must override all notions of justice or saving face.

And after Peace saw another meek display hand Manchester United a routine 3-0 victory on Saturday, the debate in his mind must be raging more fiercely than ever.

Seven games into Mel's Hawthorns reign, his team find themselves sliding deeper into crisis as four vital matches loom against sides that, under normal circumstances, they might fancy themselves to beat.

And as they start their preparations for Saturday's trip to Swansea, the central question for Peace is a simple one: Are Albion more likely to pick up the points they need against the Swans, Hull, Cardiff and Norwich with the Spaniard or without him?

Peace has been left with some serious thinking to do.

Blox share the points unwillingly

Bloxwich 1 Leamington 1
BLOXWICH Men's First XI hockey team suffered yet more heartbreak in a pulsating and nerve-racking game against fellow league strugglers Leamington.

Bloxwich played out an uneventful first half where chances were created by Bloxwich but not put away. Bloxwich continued to press in the second half and with John Morris playing a scorching ball into the D only for Jake Perkins to take a touch and the ball ending up in the back of the net. All Bloxwich needed to do was see out the final 15 minutes without conceding and they managed to resist for the majority of the time required. A questionable decision by the umpires in the final 30 seconds gave Leamington a flick they dispatched with ease. The fate of Bloxwich's future league status is still in their hands and two victories against tough sides will secure a place in the league for next season.

Downing to be back stronger

YOUNG Walsall defender Paul Downing has been backed to return stronger after his surprise derby day axing.

The 22-year-old had been an ever-present in central defence this season before Saturday's clash with Wolves but was relegated to the bench, as Saddlers boss Dean Smith opted to use James Chambers alongside skipper Andy Butler.

Downing had been struggling for form during the team's slump, scoring a calamitous own goal in the recent defeat at Preston. Smith admitted the decision to drop the former Albion youth teamer had been the tough.

Sky Blues dish out Saddlers' third defeat

Coventry 2 Walsall 1
A THIRD defeat in succession stretched to six games a winless streak which threatens to send the Saddlers' once-promising season down a cul-de-sac.

Of all the recent setbacks, this was perhaps the toughest to take, coming as it did despite a strong second half performance where it briefly looked like a corner had been turned.

For a 20 promising minutes Dean Smith's side looked the more likely to taste victory after Mal Benning's first career goal had cancelled out Callum Wilson's

first half opener. But six minutes from time it was the exiled Sky Blues who were celebrating a winner from on-loan Villa striker Nathan Delfouneso – a player Smith has freely admitted he could never afford.

Those looking for further signs fate is conspiring against the Saddlers would have had a field day.

Once again Smith was left be-moaning questionable officiating after referee Richard Clark chose to ignore what appeared a push on Febian Brandy before the move which led to Coventry's opener. To add further insult the scorer,

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Wilson, would not have been fit had the game taken place on its original date of February 1.

A common complaint has been the Saddlers failure to test opposition goalkeepers.

Here, they tested home keeper Joe Murphy three times in the space of five stoppage time seconds. He kept out every shot.

But for Murphy, it would have been the Saddlers ahead yet after a breathtaking break which began with Andy Butler's headed clear-

ance, he somehow managed to adjust and deflect Craig Westcarr's deflection from Febian Brandy's shot wide at point-blank range.

Not two minutes then passed before the hosts went ahead. It was a goal which owed much to Chuba Akpom's delightful flick over the top which sent Wilson away and clear to finish past Saddlers keeper Richard O'Donnell.

Visiting fans and Smith were left pointing to a barge on Brandy which allowed the Sky Blues to win the ball seconds earlier.

The Saddlers needed inspiration and got it eight minutes after

the break when it was a case of cometh the hour, cometh the Mal as Benning netted his first career the strike.

The left-back picked up the ball just past the halfway line and ran at the defence before unleashing a shot which Murphy could only parry and though he saved Brandy's follow-up, Benning was there to sweep home that rebound from six yards.

Six minutes from time Delfouneso won it, crashing a shot in off the bar after the impressive Mike Petrasso had outpaced Benning down the right.

Pics leave it too late to pull back match

AFC Fylde 2 Rushall Olympic 1
RUSHALL suffered a setback on the coast as they looked to secure points towards their play-off goal. Even though they managed to pull a goal back in injury time it wasn't enough to win the away match against their opponents Fylde.

The Pics went to Fylde full of confidence after some recent good form and started the match well coming out on the attack and an early shot by Carl Palmer hit the side netting on seven minutes.

But Fylde soon got into the game and it was only some fine goalkeeping in the first half by Chris Gemmell for the Pics that denied them; Adam Sumner saw his shot from a free kick tipped over the bar to keep the game scoreless a little while longer.

Matt Blinkhorn was then put through by Joe Booth but Gemmell came out of his line and blocked the shot leaving both sides to find a way to break the deadlock of the first half.

Rebounding

Again keeperGemmell was called upon on close to the half hour to make a fine save from Ritchie Allen, with the ball rebounding to Michael Booth whose shot fortuitously hit the Gemmell while he was lying on the ground in front of his goal.

The opening goal came four minutes later when Allen raced down the line and sent a cross over to the unmarked Bradley Barnes at the far post and he headed in to break the deadlock and put AFC Fylde in the lead which they held well into the second half.

Rushall tried hard to get

Football

the equaliser in the second half, with a neat move involving Palmer and James Dance almost paying off, but the latter saw his shot well saved by home goalkeeper Ben Hinchcliffe.

Jack Duggan headed over a long free kick pumped forward by Gemmell and a corner from substitute Stan Mugisha was headed over by Karl Ashton to frustrate the Pics' side.

But the game appeared to be up on 75 minutes when Adam Sumner beat a number of Rushall players and slotted the ball home to take the score to 2-0 to Fylde.

Ashton reduced the deficit in injury time with a neat lobbed effort and Palmer fired wide as Rushall searched in vain for a last-gasp equaliser but ultimately Rushall had to come away from the game the losers.

Teams: Fylde: Hinchcliffe; Hankin; Sumner; Langley; Russell; Barnes B; Barnes M; Booth; Blinkhorn; Cooke; Allen

Subs: Winter (for Hankin 67); (Denson (for Cooke 67); Blinkhorn (for Lloyd 84)

Rushall: Gemmell; Turner; Wood; Smith; Duggan; Dakers; Palmer; Craddock; Ashton; Obeng; Dance; Daniel

Subs: Mugisha (for Craddock 53); Turner (for Adobola 65); Caines; Spink
Attendance: 274

Karate classes pay off in championship



Back from left: Emily Shaw, Gian Singh, chief instructor Jason Rowley, instructor Emily-Jane Arms, Elliott Martin, Aryan Singh. Front from left: Hudson Mitchell, Asma Kouser and Tim Sheward.

Walsall Elite Martial Arts have made a big impression at their first championships of the year.

The club travelled to Hereford for the South Midlands championships where chief instructor Jason Rowley won bronze in the men's black belt sparring division.

Student Gian Singh's team to win silver in the men's black belt tag team sparring event. Instructor Emily-Jane Arms won gold in the ladies heavyweight black belt sparring division, entering her into the grand championship fights. Arms battled

her way to the final where she won the unified Ladies Grand Champion title. Asma Kouser won Gold in her patterns and tag team events for ladies red/black belt divisions. Tim Sheward won gold in the men's blue/red belt light heavy weight sparring division. Both Kouser and Sheward made their way to the grand championship finals, Kouser for patterns and Sheward for the men's unified grand champion, but both narrowly missing out.

Emily Shaw won Bronze in the ladies lightweight black belt sparring

division. Elliott Martin battled his way to the final of the men's black belt sparring division for a Silver.

Hudson Mitchell won double gold in his individual sparring and tag team boys green/blue belt divisions. Aryan Singh won gold in the boys red/black belt sparring division and South Midlands title, he also continued his form into the tag team event winning another gold.

Anyone wanting to join Walsall Elite Martial Arts & Fitness can call Jason Rowley on 07976158381.

Injury time goal spells doom for Wood

Heath Hayes 1 Walsall Wood.1

A GOAL in injury time by Dave Waple cancelled out Max Black's 58th minute effort for Wood. Wood lost Joey Butlin a few minutes later for a dangerous challenge, but the 10 men looked to have held out for all three points until up popped Waple.

Wood were first to threaten when on four minutes Craig Hancox made space wide left, his cross dropped right under the bar and keeper Ryan Goodwin pushed the ball over. It was Hancox again two minutes later cutting inside and finding Harry Harris whose first-time, low, drive was well held by Goodwin.

On seven minutes a neat ball by David Waple into the right of the box was his first time over by Tom Green.

With 16 minutes gone Hancox was fouled on the left of the box, Joey Butlin firing

the free kick inches too high. Two minutes later Wood pressured the home team into a mistake and Butlin raced into the box, he appeared to be tripped but the penalty appeals were waved away, a weak clearance only found Harris who fired first time over. On 26 minutes Butlin raced on to a ball over the top, Goodwin saving bravely at his feet.

From the keeper's kick the ball found Green who raced into the box, keeper Raj Gill racing from his line to kick clear.

With 36 minutes gone a long ball forward was cleverly held up by Butlin who laid the ball back to Harris, his rising drive taking a block off a defender and flying to safety. Four minutes later Andre Gonzales cut in from wide right and found Harris, his first time through-ball read by Tom Baggott to deny Butlin the opener.

Right on half time Green and Waple com-

bined on the left of the box to set up Liam Degville on the edge of the six yard box, Gill making a superb block from close range.

Five minutes into the second half Tom Hurdman got clear wide right, his low cross hit first time wide by Degville.

On 55 minutes Hancox found Butlin, his ball to Harris was rolled into the path of Jamie Hawkins on the right of the box to hit a first-time effort just over. The stalemate was broken on 58 minutes. Max Black won the ball in the centre circle and raced for goal. He played a neat 1-2 with Butlin and his low drive from 25 yards flew just inside the left hand post. A few minutes later Butlin was red carded and Wood were up against it with 30 minutes to go.

On 66 minutes Hurdman got away down the right, his low cross hit, first time, wide by Dan Scragg. Back came Wood and from

a right-wing corner Anthony Juxon glanced a header wide, a right wing free-kick on 73 minutes saw a Ben Maddox header skim the bar. Two minutes later a long ball forward towards Waple was cut out by Lee Stretton.

Then on 77 minutes Hancox collected the ball wide right and cut inside, he went through two tackles and was fouled on the edge of the box, the free kick by Harris easily cleared. For the last 10 minutes it was all the home side. Wood looked to have weathered the storm until in injury time substitute Grant Winwood cleverly turned back inside his marker before delivering the ball into the danger area, Waple reading the ball to perfection to power a header into the roof of the net.

Wood should have had the game sewn up before the sending off, but credit to Heath Hayes for working until the final whistle.

Freemans go down to Albion in league

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League Premier

FREEMANS FC 1 Burntwood Albion 2
Erdington Star 3 Pelsall Villa FC 0

League One
Burntwood Star 0 B'hills Comm 2; Cannock Wood 0 Longhorn FC 3; Pelsall Villa Colts 5 Boney Hay 2; Stonnall FC 0 A C Lions 1

League Three
Shelfield FC 2 Hussey Arms 0

Semi Final
Aldridge Town 1 Prince of Wales 6

Glen Skett Cup - semi-finals

Green Rock Tavern 3 Swan FC 2
Longdon Chet 2 Trident FC 3

League Trophy - Group A
Dog FC 0 Bowman FC 0
Shire Oak FC 0 Boatmans Rest 1

League Trophy - Group B
Dosthill Rangers 0 Alma FC 6

Eximius Warriors 1 Walsall Phoenix 6

League Trophy - Group C
Duke of Wellington 4 Celar Door 2

Oak Park Rangers 6 Ros Park FC 2

League Trophy - Group D
Trent Valley Rovers 1 Paradise FC 1

Wych Elm FC 1 Turnpike FC 2

Ravel best since Gazza, says Clark

BIRMINGHAM manager Lee Clark heaped rich praise on Ravel Morrison for his match-winning performance as QPR won at St Andrews.

Morrison's two goals ended Rangers' barren run of five games without a win and Clark admitted it was entirely due to the hugely-talented midfielder, who spent last season on loan at with the Blues.

Morrison scored from a splendid 14th-minute free-kick and netted an easy second in the 72nd minute to plunge his former club to their 12th successive home game without a win.

It was only his third appearance for the London club on loan from West Ham.

Clark, who recommended 21-year-old Morrison to Rangers boss Harry Redknapp, said: "He is the best footballer since Paul Gascoigne. If Paul Gascoigne had not done his knee he would have become the best player in the world."

Gabby bets on Villa generosity

GABBY AGBONLAHOR is backing the generosity of Villa fans as the club look to raise £100,000 for Acorns.

The forward reckons the claret and blue army can help set a fundraising record on Villa's third Acorns Day against Stoke on March 23.

Villa have a long-standing relationship with Acorns and became the first Premier League side to use a charity instead of a sponsor on their shirt in 2008.

Last year the club and fans raised £93,000 on Acorns Day and this time Agbonlahor believes they can go further.

"Hopefully there are a lot of generous people out there," he said.

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Left too late
Rushall's comeback
just does not happen
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Karate class
Fighters show their
mettle in contest
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email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Walsall suffer a beating at Stoke

Stoke 16 Walsall 9
WALSALL will be very disappointed with this latest performance which resulted in them suffering a defeat in the Potteries.

It proved to be an afternoon that Walsall will want to forget, as they made numerous errors and wasted several try scoring opportunities. All of their points came from penalties that were accurately dispatched by Roger Weston. Walsall's first penalty came as a result of good ball carries by Mike Benson and Harvey Wootton.

Indeed, the visitors had established a 9-8 lead early in the second half as a result of scrum infringements by Stoke. But Walsall, on several occasions, should have scored tries.

The home pack were under tremendous pressure and their indiscipline resulted in four yellow cards against them. But despite their numerical superiority for 40 minutes of the game, Walsall failed to breach the Stoke defence. The hosts, in contrast, used their strong running back division to good effect. Crisp passing released winger Will Sant for their first try after just five minutes. Scrum half Jamie Loska used his speed to cross near the corner flag for their second try mid-way through the second half. Full back Marsh also kicked two penalties.

No score for Khalsa squad

Sporting Khalsa 0 Lye 0
With first playing third this was always going to be a close game and so it proved with very few clear cut chances for either side.

Khalsa looked to be on top of the game with several half-chances until the game was delayed after 25 minutes when the referee sustained a hamstring injury and was unable to continue. The game continued after a delay of 30 minutes once a replacement official was found. The Lye Town keeper was certainly the busier of the two keepers in the first half.

The visitors were on top of the game after the interval and had the better scoring chances which were either spurned or well defended by Khalsa. Khalsa looked lively on the break after the introduction of Reece Cottrell who went close to scoring for Khalsa.

Wulfs find Wood a four-ace to be reckoned with

AFC Wulfrunians 1 Walsall Wood 4
WOOD should have gone in at half time more than one goal ahead, but dominated the second half and ran out comfortable winners in the end, courtesy of a clinical Harry Harris hat-trick. The win took them to 11th place in the table and their unbeaten run to 15.

Wood went ahead with virtually their first attack on six minutes, Jamie Hawkins collected the ball wide right before cutting inside and finding Joey Butlin in the centre of the box, he held the ball up cleverly before playing the ball left for Harry Harris to score with a crisp low drive. With 13 min-

Football

utes gone and a central free kick for Wood was only half cleared to Anthony Juxon, his low drive through a crowd of players was well held by keeper Daniel Tipton.

The last action of the half saw a Wulfs' left wing corner clear everyone in the centre but fall to Robertson, his low drive was diverted by Brad Lawley only for Cotton to make a superb one-handed save. The resulting corner was cleared out wide left to Butlin who raced clear before his low cross took a wicked bounce and was stabbed wide by a

wrong-footed Hawkins. The first action of the second half saw Cotton race to the edge of his box to take the ball off Robertson.

With 51 minutes gone, Wood won a free kick in the centre circle, the ball was delivered to the right of the box. Harris was first to react scoring with an acrobatic overhead kick that went across the keeper and in at the far post, to double Wood's lead.

It was all over 5 minutes later, a ram-paging run by Butlin ended with him being brought down on the left of the D, he took the kick himself and fired the ball into the top left hand corner.

Two minutes later never-say-die Robert-

son raced on to a ball over the top of the Wood defence, his rising drive beat Cotton but bounced to safety off the right angle.

Wulfs scored the consolation goal their fightback had deserved when on 90 minutes Hurren raced into the right of the box before feeding Gregg on his right, his low cross flew across the face of the six yard box and Webb fired into the roof of the net.

A minute into injury time Butlin broke clear wide right, his slide rule ball inside was collected in his stride by Harris who kept his composure to clinically bury the ball past the stranded Tipton to complete his first hat trick for Wood.

Defeat follows a layoff

Willenhall Town 0 Malvern Town 2

IN their first home game for 12 weeks, The Lockmen stumbled to defeat due to two debatable decisions.

The home side threatened first as Jake Morgan was played through on goal, but replacement keeper Charles Weaver came out bravely to save at his feet. Tom Rann then fired high and wide on 17 minutes before the visitors became more of a force. The Reds were second best after the break. Dave Reynolds hit the post on 48 minutes but they had no real chances until Matt Dorgan's last ditch goal-saving challenge was punished by a free-kick for deliberate hand-ball as he sprawled across the floor. Louis Loader stepped up to take the free-kick and fired low into the far corner for the opener. In the third minute of stoppage time two Malvern players were allowed to break clear on goal as both stood offside in the Willenhall half with all Willenhall players in the opponents half. Lee Hooper was the man who raced onto the ball, rounded Wright and slotted home. This Saturday Willenhall meet Lye Town 3pm kick-off.

Saddlers mourn keeper Christie

WALSALL are mourning the death of former goal-keeper John Christie, who helped the club to back-to-back promotions in 1960 and 1961.

The Scot has died in Hampshire at the age of 84. A club statement said: "Everyone here at Walsall Football Club would like to pass on our sincere condolences to his family."

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SADDLERS' SHOW IS JUST NOT ENOUGH

Walsall 0 Wolves 3

A STEP forward, or another nail in the play-off coffin?

PERHAPS it was both. At first glance it would appear ludicrous in the extreme to talk about positives after a 3-0 home defeat to bitter local rivals.

But in the context of the game, if not the season, they were certainly there.

When Wolves, already 3-0 up, threw on a £750,000 striker to replace a £300,000 one who had already scored twice it rather summed up the challenge which had been facing the Saddlers.

But this was arguably the most complete performance by Dean Smith's side in a run which has seen them lose five of the last six games, even if the scoreline matched their worst defeat.

Slumped

It was simply unfortunate it came against a Wolves team which, while the Saddlers have slumped, has looked a cut above the rest of League One.

The recent run has robbed Saddlers of the consistency so prevalent through the opening half of a campaign in which they have never been outside the division's top half. A battling draw at Peterborough on a pudding of a pitch has been followed by four straight defeats.

Team selection could be fascinating. On arguably the biggest day of the season to date, Smith made his boldest decisions, dropping the

Football

until then ever-present Paul Downing in what was the first unforced change to the central defence this season, along with top scorer Craig Westcarr.

With James Chambers moving inside to join Andy Butler, there was a shock recall for Troy Hewitt in attack, while fit-again Andy Taylor was preferred to youngster Mal Benning at left-back.

The results were, at first glance, inconclusive. Chambers certainly did little wrong, while Hewitt showed surprising sharpness in his first outing since New Year's Day - his selection perhaps saying more about the current standing of Michael Ngoo than anything else.

Taylor was lacking a little in match sharpness but is likely to keep his place. Whether Downing is handed an instant return is another matter. There is no question the young centre-back had been suffering a dip in form, his own goal at Preston magnifying the lack of assuredness which had crept into his game. At 22, this is the first real setback of a professional career which until the past few weeks had looked seamless.



Nicky Featherstone using his head during Walsall's home match against local and league rivals Wolves

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